



RATCLIFFIAN  
ASSOCIATION

# THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN

2022



EDITION XXV



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## WHY? BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Ratcliffian Association's key aim is to maintain the sense of belonging that played a pivotal role in your time at the College. As an Old Ratcliffian, staying connected with Ratcliffe and your peers means not only having a community to call upon for friendship, advice, and support, but it also enables you to 'give back', maintaining this legacy for future generations.

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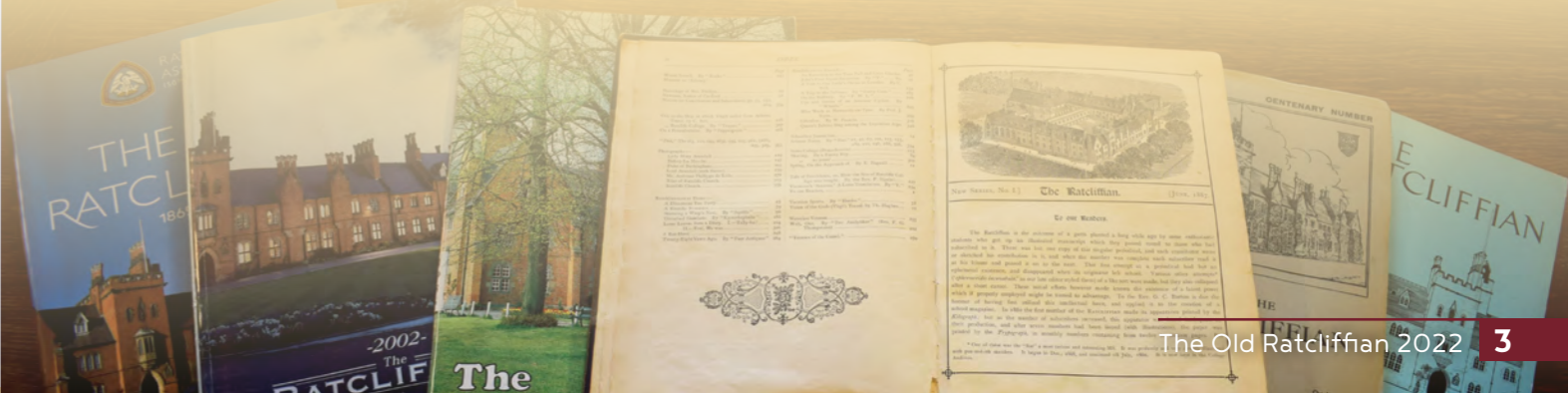
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## THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN MAGAZINE

The Old Ratcliffian magazine is for you. It is about you and your old friends, those people who have trodden the same path as you, who have eaten in the same Ref, enjoyed the same activities, and been taught by the same teachers. Without you, this magazine would not exist, so we ask you to share your feedback and ideas, and to tell us what you would like to see in next year's magazine. Just get in touch with us at [alumni@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:alumni@ratcliffecollege.com) - we'd love to hear from you.

'I remain an avid reader of *The Old Ratcliffian* and admire your efforts to produce a consistently excellent publication.'  
**Michael Powell (59)**



## THE EDITOR'S COLUMN

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

Having started my role in March, it is hard to believe that, as I write this, it is already nearing the end of 2022. The year has simply flown by, not only for the Association team, but, I am sure, for many of you as well. When I look back to January, I remember that it started with a sense of hesitation as to whether the country would be put back into lockdown following COVID restrictions, having been lifted over the Christmas period. However, slowly but surely, the nation has emerged from the pandemic, and we have experienced something of a 'normal' year – one where you can plan something without the worry of it being cancelled or rescheduled.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the Old Ratcliffians whom I have had the pleasure of meeting or speaking to since I took up this post. It is a delight to hear your stories and memories of the school. I also extend my thanks to Sarah Gretton, former Association Manager, from whom I took over this role. She did an astonishing job at keeping the Association alive throughout the pandemic and lockdown. Most of all, thank you to Katherine Lang (Association Secretary), Louise Liston (Foundation Manager), and **Andrew Yell (82)** (Development Director), who welcomed me into the Ratcliffe family with open arms. Their tireless work and commitment to the Association and College is apparent in their wealth of knowledge and connections.

A few months into my role, one Saturday afternoon, I led my first tour of the school for Old Ratcliffians. I was a little nervous, as I knew that my knowledge was limited, having only just started. I need not have worried; as I showed the group around, it was clear that they knew far more than me, anyway! The school had been their home for many years. Of course, things had changed, but they pointed out where things used to be – where they had their shoes shined, their hair cut, and the most important place of all, the Tuck Shop. I was enthralled, listening to their accounts of how school life once was, and watching their minds drift down memory lane as they sat in the Lockhart Garden, looking up at what used to be their bedroom window. Seeing the emotions that it evoked in them was, for me, a rewarding Saturday at work. Being able to give them that opportunity to take a walk back in time brought home to me that this job is not a normal job. It is personal, and it is a privilege to be a part of Ratcliffe life.

Along with the return of our school tours, we're delighted to have resumed our events calendar once again. With this year being the 175th Anniversary of the College, it really has been a year of celebration. It was an absolute pleasure to work alongside the Foundation and Development team and the Parents' Association to deliver the spectacular Summer Ball in July. As part of the annual Reunion Weekend, a special 175th Anniversary Thanksgiving Mass followed on the Sunday, and the weekend was finished off with the superb Grand Match and a barbecue. More recently, we have had plenty of events to keep us busy, from cocktail evenings and curry nights to the Past Presidents' Dinner. It has been wonderful to have welcomed so many Old Ratcliffians back to the school to reunite, reminisce, and reconnect, following so many months of disruption.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank former Association President **Ben Jackson (88)**, who finally stepped down from his post in July, after three years of extended service. I only spent a few months working with Ben, but his enthusiasm and passion for the Association were infectious. He did a fantastic job at keeping things going through COVID. At the AGM in July, he handed over the reins to **Dan Amies (10)**, the youngest ever Ratcliffian Association President. Looking ahead to the new year, we will be implementing Dan's vision and strategy, which you can read more about on page 29 of this magazine.

I would also like to thank Headmaster Jon Reddin and the College for their continued support of the Association, enabling past pupils to feel a real sense of connection to Ratcliffe, no matter how many years have passed.

Warmest wishes to you and your families during this festive season.

**Amanda Mole**  
Ratcliffian Association Manager

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Old Ratcliffians,

There has been a great deal of change since last year's edition. Firstly, it is a pleasure for me to provide this year's introduction, albeit in place of our familiar and esteemed former President **Ben Jackson (88)**, following his unprecedented time at the helm. Secondly, my introduction follows that of our new Association Manager, Amanda Mole. Brimming with enthusiasm, Amanda has already hit the ground running, together with Katherine and the team, pulling off the highly successful 175th Anniversary Summer Ball, amongst a plethora of other activities. Through Ben's prior direction, and Amanda and Katherine's determination, all of the conditions for success, going forward, have been set. The final difference that I would like to highlight, having reflected upon last year's edition, is how many events still took place, albeit with face masks on. As we move into this post-lockdown world, I want to seize on everybody's desire to reignite those social interactions in full, and for all year groups, if not achieved in this edition, to strive for a face-mask-free edition in 2023.

I am pleased to report the excellent work of the Association team, who thrive upon the interaction, support, and participation at events of you, their alumni. I know that Amanda and Katherine are motivated to steam ahead, and if you have participated already, please continue to do so; however, if you have not yet participated in some way, I challenge you to attend at least one event in 2023. The whole team, including the Association Council, and I are working through several initiatives which I hope to implement; you'll find a further spread on my ideas later in this magazine. I encourage you to pick up the phone to the Association team and explore your OR event ideas, however big or small, with them.

It would be remiss of me not to reflect on the death of Her Majesty the Queen, Elizabeth II. As an Army Officer, the Crown is central. The commission that I hold is the Queen's Commission, and the cap badge I wear, and the cypher on my sword, are that of Her Majesty. The Queen was my Corps', the Royal Engineers, Colonel-in-Chief, and we have many fond memories of hosting Her Majesty at the home of our Corps in Chatham, Kent. We can all draw from her leadership and take inspiration from her lifelong commitment to this country. Britain was made greater through her reign, and she is desperately missed. Long live the King.

Finally, I wish to commend in the highest regard the success of Ratcliffe, and offer huge congratulations to Headmaster Jon Reddin, all the pupils, and staff, for the recent academic, sporting, and artistic achievements of the school. Ratcliffe seems to continue to go from strength to strength, year on year, and as the Association, we stand, ready to support and give back in any way that we can.

**Dan Amies (10)**  
President of the Ratcliffian Association





Change inevitably constitutes a challenge, but having reflected on the energy and endeavour of the College community this past year, as well as the drive and ambition of the Association, I am confident that Ratcliffe is well placed to ensure that it continues to offer a truly outstanding quality of education. Our local, national, and international reputation is built upon the calibre of our current provision and the ambition that we articulate for the future. It was fantastic that our collective efforts over the last six years were fully recognised by the Independent Schools Inspectorate in May, as Ratcliffe was judged 'Excellent' in all respects. This judgement is testament to the dedication and hard work of the students, staff, governors, trustees, and parents, and the success that we have achieved together to fulfil our Catholic mission. In looking back at our collective achievements this year, we have certainly come a long way, and we should be immensely proud of our efforts. This wonderful publication highlights, through pictures and prose, many of the memorable moments that the College community, past and present, have shared. I hope that you will enjoy reflecting upon the past year as much as the Ratcliffian Association and its contributors have enjoyed writing about it.



Over the course of 2021-2022, the governors and Senior Leadership Team spent time considering just how far the College has evolved since its foundation 175 years ago. Whilst we are custodians of the much-loved traditions of this school community, it is our responsibility to continue to drive the College forward, so that it continues to offer a modern, diverse, creative, and intellectually exciting curriculum in the future. Whilst it is fantastic that our recent past has been judged 'Excellent', it is what follows next that counts most.

Therefore, as this most celebrated anniversary year passes, I am delighted that the College has agreed a new Strategic Development Plan, which will provide a strong sense of strategic direction for the next five years.

Ratcliffe College aspires to be a leading Catholic independent day and boarding school which is financially secure. Consequently, the new strategic plan is appropriately ambitious, and it communicates a resilient and deliverable vision for a progressive, creative, caring, environmentally sustainable, and internationally minded school for our children. Most importantly, it is underpinned by our distinctive Rosminian charisma, with an unwavering commitment to ensuring that our young people fulfil their greatest potential, through the vision 'Encouraging Big Ideas', which reflects the educational values of our founder, Blessed Antonio Rosmini.

In the Gospel reading from St Luke, Chapter 9, Jesus said, 'No one, having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God'. In this moment, Jesus was saying that a person who was worthy to be His disciple had to place the same priority on the forward-looking spiritual mission that Jesus called him to perform, and he could not let himself be distracted by thoughts of what he was leaving behind, or had left behind, in his former life.

And so it is for our College. If we are to be worthy disciples of Jesus and live out our mission and vision to the full, we must not be distracted by our past, but, instead, push forward resolutely, and devote ourselves to our new work and our future, in His name.

Celebrate the past as you thumb through the pages of this excellent magazine, but as you do, remember to look ahead with optimism and hope for your alma mater, and rejoice in the opportunities that await us all.

**Jon Reddin**  
Headmaster

## THE HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends of Ratcliffe College,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 edition of *The Old Ratcliffian* magazine.

### 'Look backwards to learn, look forward to succeed.'

I once read that 'the only time we should ever look back is to see how far we've come'. As we celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the College's foundation in June, it was a timely opportunity to not only reflect upon this academic year, but also upon the illustrious history of this most remarkable of communities, of which you are still very much a part. The anniversary celebrations were an ideal moment for us all to stop and take stock of all that we have achieved to date, as well as deciding what the next steps should be, in order to future-proof the College and ensure that it is well placed to help future generations of children and young people to live out our school motto, 'Legis Plenitudo Charitas'.



## VALETE - CLASS OF 2022 CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S LEAVERS

Name	Destination	Course
Temí Abiodun	University of Nottingham	Economics
Morayo Ajetunmbi	UCL (University College London)	Economics (with Placement)
John Amewu	University of Reading	Computer Science (with a Year in Industry)
Daata Apiafi	University of Nottingham	Medical Physiology and Therapeutics
Harry Ashberry	University of Sussex	Business and Management Studies
Ben Ashford	Durham University	Business and Management (with Study Abroad)
Rachel Astill	University of Bath	Criminology
Elise Atkinson	University of Bath	Economics (with Placement)
Thomas Ball	Sheffield Hallam University	Business and Management (with Foundation Year)
Poppy Bastock	University of Tennessee, USA	Chemistry (Football Scholarship)
Lydia Bellamy	Nottingham College	Art Foundation Course
Sunika Bhavsar-Hawkins	Royal Holloway, University of London	Law (with a Year in Industry)
Mickyle Bhojani	Applying in 2023 (Engineering)	
Henry Bower	Newcastle University (2023)	Business Management
William Brazill	Birmingham City University	Product and Furniture Design (with Professional Placement)
Annie Bridgwood	Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Roman Carpenter	Cardiff University	Economics and Management Studies (with Professional Placement)
Ethan Chapman	Liverpool John Moores University	Construction Management
Amelia Chapman	Oxford Brookes University	Business and Management
Eloka Chukwuma	Cardiff University	Business Management (Marketing) (with Professional Placement)
Henry Coombs	Cardiff University	Economics and Management Studies (with Professional Placement)
Olivia Crawley	Loughborough University (2023)	Management (with Placement)
Joseph Davies	Lancaster University	Mechanical Engineering
Nigel Denham	Lancaster University	Economics, Politics, and International Relations
Alex Dring	Aberystwyth University	Film and Television Studies / Drama and Theatre
Jess Elton	University of Birmingham	Global Environmental Change and Sustainability (with Study Abroad)
Brooke England	Applying in 2023 (Medicine)	
Victor Feng	Loughborough University	Mathematics with Statistics (with Placement)
Albert Fletcher	Leeds Beckett University	Real Estate and Property Management
Louis Gilbert	Lancaster University	Economics, Politics, and International Relations
Angel Gomes	Degree Apprenticeship with AkzoNobel	
Dominic Goodman	Nottingham Trent University	Economics
Jacob Goward	University of East Anglia	Computing Science
Xavier Henderson	University of Bath	Chemical Engineering
Jamie Hollis	Nottingham Trent University (2023)	Media Production
Fred Jackson	University of Bath	Accounting and Finance (with Professional Placement)
Ben Jarvis	Direct Employment	
Indie King	University of Leicester	Journalism
Lucy Kwan	University of Manchester	Architecture
Angel Lau	University of Hong Kong	Data Science
Elliot Lindop	Applying in 2023 (USA and UCAS)	
Samuel Linnett	Northumbria University	Business Management
Mia Lowe	University of Plymouth	Dental Surgery
Samraj Mangat	De Montfort University	Business Economics
Verity Mangham	University of Exeter	Politics and International Relations (with Study Abroad)
William Marsden	Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Daniel McGunnigle	University of Bath	Economics (with Placement)
Harran Mokha	Oxford Brookes University	Computer Science for Cyber Security
Samuel Moss	University of Birmingham	Chemical Engineering (with International and Industrial Study)
Frankie O'Shea	Newcastle University	Business Management
Illy Perrins	University of Manchester (2023)	Adult Nursing
Beth Pick	University of York	English
Annie Rose Reddin	Loughborough University	Sport and Exercise Science (with Placement)
Harvey Seymour	Oxford Brookes University	Real Estate
Freya Smith	University of Exeter (2023)	Modern Languages and Arabic
Arifah Suleiman	Loughborough University	Computer Science
Heidi Sy	University of Wolverhampton	Pharmacy
Leo Tang	University of Manchester	Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry
Alexander Thomas	University of Surrey	Law (Law and Technology Pathway)
Marley Totton	University of Nottingham	Physics
Louise Upton-Halliday	Nottingham Trent University	International Business with Spanish
Jessica Watkins	Manchester Metropolitan University	Criminology
Louis Westwood	Oxford Brookes University	Economics, Finance, and International Business
Amy Whitelaw	Applying in 2023	
Megan Williams	Leeds Conservatoire	Music (Songwriting)
Sophie Wilson	City, University of London	Children's Nursing
Revol Xie	University of Birmingham	Mathematics with Business Management
Xabier Zanotti Baranano	Durham University	Physics

### Post A Level Applicants

Max Chapman	University of Cambridge	Natural Sciences
Joshua Davison	Falmouth University	Business and Entrepreneurship
Daniella Hendry	University of Bristol	History
Hadia Hussain	Queen Mary University of London	Law
Aled Dafydd King	Keele University	Physiotherapy (with Foundation Year)
Eisha Patel	University of Birmingham	Pharmacy
Tina Zhang	University of Leeds	Business Management and the Human Resource

## CLASS OF 2022: A LEVEL RESULTS

Congratulations to the Year 13 students at Ratcliffe College, who enjoyed great success in their A Levels this summer. 25% of all A Level students achieved A\*, A, A grades or better.

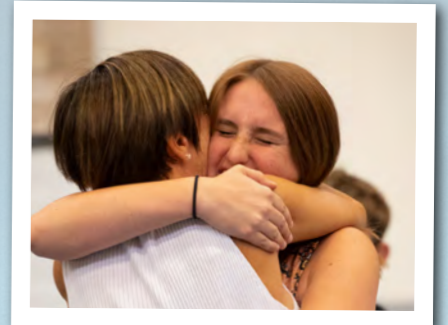
Head Girl Elise Atkinson and Deputy Head Boy Xabier Zanotti Baranano both achieved 4 A\*s. Elise, who will read Economics at the University of Bath, said: 'I feel so relieved to have my results, and I'm really looking forward to celebrating with my friends and family. I've been here since Year 7, and I'll really miss Ratcliffe.'

Xabier, who will read Physics at Durham, said: 'I've been a pupil at Ratcliffe since the age of three, and I really love it here. I am so pleased with my results, and I'm excited about the future.'

Congratulations also go to Jess Elton and Leo Tang, who achieved 3 A\*s in their subjects. Jess, who will read Global Environmental Change and Sustainability (with a year abroad) at the University of Birmingham, commented: 'I'm really looking forward to studying something that I'm so interested in and passionate about. I will really miss Ratcliffe; the teachers have been so supportive.'

Sam Moss also achieved 2 A\*s and an A, and he will be going on to read Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham. Sam said: 'The best thing about Ratcliffe is the people. Everyone has been so supportive, especially during the Sixth Form. The guidance and encouragement I experienced was amazing.'

Headmaster Jon Reddin commented: 'The cohort of 2022 will always be synonymous with the difficulties presented by the pandemic, having experienced the challenges of their GCSEs being cancelled in 2020, and further disruption to the teaching of their A Level courses since. We are incredibly proud of the way in which they have supported one another and remained true to our mission as a Catholic school. We wish them every happiness and success as they move on to higher education and their future careers. Thank you, Year 13, for being such wonderful ambassadors for Ratcliffe College.'



## GCSE RESULTS

Students at Ratcliffe College were delighted with their GCSE results. Despite the uncertainty and disruption caused by the pandemic and periods of online learning, the College has seen its best ever examination results.

The College celebrated an overall pass rate of 95.3% (grade 4s or above), with 53.3% of all students achieving grade 7s or above.

Headmaster Jon Reddin commented: 'Well done to all our students who received their GCSE results today. I am exceptionally proud of their grades, which have been achieved whilst navigating the challenges of the COVID pandemic. When you take time to reflect on just how much these young people have had to manage over the past few years, the results are all the more satisfying. The students and their teachers have worked incredibly hard and deserve this success.'

'We are excited to be welcoming this cohort into our fantastic Sixth Form in September, and we look forward to the students' continued success as they begin their A Level courses.'

A special mention goes to Lucia Orsini-Rottner, who achieved an incredible 10 grade 9s and one grade 8. Lucia said: 'I'm really shocked and extremely happy with my results. I've been at Ratcliffe since Year 7 and have really enjoyed my time here so far. I just can't wait to stay on in the Sixth Form here and study Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, and Spanish!'

We also commend Rosie Dickerson, who achieved nine grade 9s and two grade 8s, and congratulations go to Esme Ainsley, Sam Davies, Sophie Walker, David Ipinmoye, and Katherine McCrindell, who achieved grade 7 or above in all 11 of their subjects - a marvellous achievement.

David said: 'The people here at Ratcliffe make it what it is; the support and help you get are great. I'm very happy with my results today and am looking forward to studying Chemistry, Biology, Physics, and Psychology, in the hope that, one day soon, I can become a doctor.'



## THE SIXTH FORM

After two years of COVID restrictions and lockdowns, it was fantastic to return to a more full and varied way of life for the Sixth Form in 2021-2022, and our students responded by making the most of the many opportunities available to them, both in and out of the classroom.

Year 13 are to be congratulated on their outstanding A Level results, which were all the more impressive, given that the year group had not had the experience of sitting public examinations before. In light of these results, it was not surprising that over 80% of students were successful in gaining their place at their first-choice destination for life after school, in what was a very competitive university application cycle.

Leavers' Day was a very emotional, yet enjoyable, day for Year 13, during which they were able to spend time reflecting on their years at Ratcliffe with their teachers and one another. The day included a moving Mass in the College Chapel, largely organised and led by the students, and culminated in an excellent Parents' Farewell Event on the Fountain Lawn, which is certainly something we will repeat in future years.

Finally, the improvements in the Sixth Form Centre fabric and facilities have enhanced our students' experience further, and they have been hugely appreciated and enjoyed by all. The Lounge was refurbished at the beginning of the year, while the Sixth Form Café, with a professional barista service, opened at the beginning of the new school year in September.

I would like to thank and congratulate all students on their contributions to Sixth Form life over the last year, and I wish our departing Year 13 students all the very best for the future.

**Ben Harrison**

Assistant Head & Head of Sixth Form



## THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE CLASS OF 2022

During the Leavers' Mass, OR **Andrew Yell (82)** delivered a speech welcoming the Class of 2022 to the Ratcliffian Association. Reflecting on his own school memories, he said: 'As a former student myself, I can honestly say that there are so many warm and welcoming Old Ratcliffians who are happy to engage, network, and support young ORs.'

The Class of 2022 were all presented with leaving gifts; the boys received a Ratcliffian Association colours tie, often worn at reunion events, and the girls were given a sterling silver charm with the Ratcliffe crest on it. On behalf of the Ratcliffian Association, we wish them the very best of luck in the future.

**Amanda Mole**

Ratcliffian Association Manager



## RATCLIFFE'S BOARDING COMMUNITY



It has been an extremely busy year in boarding. It was great to welcome our new boarders in September, but we have also had to say a sad farewell to our fantastic Year 13 students.

We are so proud of our boarders and all their wonderful achievements this year. They have shown us how resilient they have been throughout the COVID pandemic, knowing the courage that it has taken for them to remain positive and supportive of one another within our community. We are so pleased to get back to a sense of normality. For some of our new boarders, this is the first time that they have lived away from home. They have shown great resilience in coping with the challenges of living in a foreign country and studying in a second language. The boarding staff have been immense in their support of the boarders, overseeing their personal growth and development.

We are very fortunate to have an amazing, fun, and varied weekend activities programme for our boarding students to enjoy. The programme enables our students in all year groups to come together as a community, have fun, and make new friends. In the Summer Term, we welcomed several students through the Ratcliffe College Immersion Programme. The highlight of their arrival was seeing how welcoming all of our boarders were, ensuring that the new students all settled in to boarding life; the indoor skydiving, paintballing, go-karting, and Go Ape also helped with this!

The spiritual life of the College also plays a big role in supporting our boarders' personal growth, through our night prayer and collective worship. We are welcoming of all faiths and religions, and this is evident in our diverse and inclusive boarding community. **Fr Sainter (69)** (our Father President) and Miss Hall (our Lay Chaplain) have provided us with the opportunity to come together in both prayer and song, as well as supporting us all in living out the Gospel values within the boarding community.

**Clement Donegan**  
Deputy Head Pastoral & Head of Boarding



## CAREERS

We started the academic year in September 2021 with a fantastically well-attended Careers Convention, which saw parents, alumni, and local businesses pull together to present their career pathways to our students. This was a much-welcomed return to 'live' Careers events in school, and it was fantastic to see so many students from different year groups actively considering their futures and being inspired by Old Ratcliffians. ORs represented industries such as architecture, project management, human resources, cyber security, event management, public relations, interior design, the armed forces, and nursing, demonstrating the wide breadth of career pathways that current Ratcliffians can aspire to.

Our annual Careers Development Fund Competition entered its third year, this time sponsored by OR **Dominic Russell (78)**, giving Year 12 the opportunity to pitch for a share of £1,000, to be used for career development purposes. This process provides our Year 12 students with additional motivation to research opportunities that may be of benefit to their future careers early on within their Sixth Form journey. The students are then tasked with pitching their ideas to a panel, which many of them find extremely beneficial, not just those that are ultimately awarded funds.

We have also been grateful for the further support of alumni who continue to provide talks within our INSPIRE programme. This programme allows us to introduce different industries and pathways to students from Year 9 to Year 13. Speakers choose to present either in person or virtually, in order for us to enable as much breadth as possible within the programme. A particularly memorable speaker this year was Rob Barsby from Aerospax, introduced via OR **Alex Slack (née Gamble) (03)**. He talked to our students about how formation flying, aerobatics, and night pyrotechnics were used to create a promotional video for the Saudi Arabian Formula 1 Grand Prix. Unsurprisingly, this was very engaging!

Throughout all year groups, we continue to use Unifrog as our Careers platform, providing age-appropriate exercises within PSHCE and the wider curriculum. Old Ratcliffians have, again, been able to support many of the events provided within our Careers programme. They have ably helped to provide mock interviews, CV reviews, and feedback for our Year 11 students, participated in mock mini-interviews for our Year 13 medical, veterinary,

and dentistry hopefuls, and provided targeted mentoring and interview practice for a large number of our Sixth Form students. It has been particularly encouraging to see recent ORs participating within this mentoring programme; former Head Girl **Sophie Brown (21)**, for example, recently spoke to the students about her current experience on a PwC Flying Start degree.

In conjunction with the Ratcliffian Association, we hope to develop our mentoring and work-experience programmes further, providing events in 2022-2023 that allow current students, recent alumni, and more experienced alumni to maximise our network collectively. We welcome volunteers and contacts from within the OR community and continue to be grateful for their current support.

**Kate Grace**  
Head of Careers





## CHAPLAINCY & CHARITY: 2021-2022

**'The perfection of the Gospel consists in the perfect carrying out of the two commandments of love – the love of God and the love of our neighbour.'**

**– Blessed Antonio Rosmini**

Blessed Antonio Rosmini desired that students in the schools that he founded would become seekers of the truth, and it is upon this that the mission of Ratcliffe is based. The role of Chaplaincy is, therefore, to build within the school community a culture of service to all, to help inspire the students through an exploration of the Gospel values, and to celebrate the faith of our community in prayer and acts of worship.

### CALLED TO SERVE OTHERS

**'Perfect charity, in which consists the perfection of all, brings the whole person into union with the Creator.'**

**– Blessed Antonio Rosmini**

Our school motto, 'Love is the Fulfilment of the Law', is a daily reminder that loving service of others is an integral part of the Christian identity. Christ has given us clear instructions that a 'Christian life is for service', and Pope Francis reminds us that, while Christ instructs everyone to give freely that which has been given freely, it is meant especially for us 'shepherds of the church'.

With this in mind, money is raised each year to support one of the charities chosen by the school community. Each year group, as well as the boarding community, sponsors a particular organisation and spends the academic year raising both money and awareness for their cause.

Alongside the various charity events, like cake sales and Casuals Days, there are a number of different community service-based clubs which run throughout the academic year. These include

the St Vincent de Paul Society, the Mother Teresa Group, and the Voluntary Service Unit, where numerous students contribute their time to helping others.

As a school, we have supported numerous charities this year, including Mary's Meals, Guide Dogs UK, WWF, Stand up to Racism, and the Leicester South Foodbank.



### CALLED TO A LIFE OF PRAYER

**'Oh, how sweet it is to speak with God, to be satisfied in him alone, remember, to long for, to gaze on God, know God, to be in love with God.'**

**– Blessed Antonio Rosmini**

At the heart of Ratcliffe College is our Christian identity, and at the heart of Christian identity is the desire to be close to the will of God. Because of this, there is a clear dedication to finding moments each day for prayer. Spending time in quiet reflection,

where both student and staff bodies can come to know who God is, is central to the life of the College.



Each week begins and ends in the College Chapel in collective worship; feast days are celebrated with Mass; Remembrance Day and Easter are marked with special services; and Advent and Lent are signified by Reconciliation Days. Regular Boarding Community Weekend Mass and Night Prayer, and Tutor Group Prayers further contribute to the liturgical life of the College.

### CALLED TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL

**'[We] should feel perfectly at peace and full of joy, resting entirely upon [our] Lord.'**

**– Blessed Antonio Rosmini**

Ratcliffe's vision is for each student to leave the College having developed 'Strength of Mind, Strength of Values, and Strength of Purpose', but what does this really mean, and how can we relay this message to the school community?

Each week, the Senior Leadership and Chaplaincy Teams lead or facilitate assemblies that are designed to engage, develop, and inspire those present, and every other week, individual year group assemblies further support this.

Students are always encouraged to develop their faith outside school, and the residential retreats offer this opportunity. A retreat experience allows time for those attending to think and build their relationships with God, themselves, and with others. This academic year, Year 7 visited The Briars, where they spent time building friendships and exploring faith, and the annual retreat to Alton Castle for the Year 8 students was also a great success.



### A FINAL THANK YOU

Special thanks must go to the Chaplaincy and Charities staff and student teams – in particular, Mr Walsh, who continues to lead the VSU each week.

**Emma Hall**  
Lay Chaplain



## COMBINED CADET FORCE

As I look back over the year and think about the wonderful things that we have achieved as a contingent, I can't help feeling curious about where our former cadets are, and about what they have achieved. Our School Staff Instructor, Lieutenant Mark Edwards, continues to compile the history of the CCF at Ratcliffe College, and what a wonderful project it is, but it can only tell part of the story. As Contingent Commander, I am very keen to hear from our former cadets, and perhaps to hear how the CCF helped them to achieve their ambitions. I invite any former cadets to drop me an email at [pwalters@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:pwalters@ratcliffecollege.com), so that we can begin to collect those important personal reflections.

It has been a busy year for the CCF, with highlights including four camps, various day visits, and preparations for competitions. The contingent were highly honoured this year when our senior cadet, Curtis Lui, was awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Leicestershire. If there any former Lord Lieutenant's Cadets among our erstwhile cadets, we would love to hear from you.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Old Ratcliffians and former CCF cadets **Liam Cradden (88)** and **Matt Rowlett (91)**, who took an active part in our annual CCF charity event in March, organised by Lieutenant Mark Edwards (see pages 24 and 47 for more details). It was wonderful to welcome them both back to the contingent, and to hear how the CCF was such a formative influence on them both. Thanks also to our former CCF cadet **Brian Beeby (69)**, who very kindly donated the bottled water for the event.

On the evening of April 26th, our two senior RAF cadets, Vicki Wheatley and Curtis Lui, delivered a presentation in response to a Commonwealth War Graves Commission project. The presentation was about Old Ratcliffian **Paul Baillon (32)**, who was a Spitfire pilot shot down during the Battle of Britain. The project served to recognise a part of Ratcliffe College's rich, varied, and fascinating history, and this was particularly relevant in the school's 175th Anniversary year. Both Vicki and Curtis worked incredibly hard on the project, and Megan Kelleher from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was extremely impressed, describing it as a 'brilliant presentation'. Present in the audience were the headmaster, school governors, representatives from the RAF Air

Cadets, parents, and Senior School staff. Congratulations to both Vicki and Curtis on an exceptional project, and our thanks to all those who attended.

Ratcliffe's CCF Contingent travelled to the Wye Valley and South Wales for their annual Easter adventure camp. Activities included kayaking, canoeing, and stand-up paddleboarding on the River Wye, mountain biking in the Forest of Dean, and hill walking, taking in a magnificent view over Monmouth. All of the activities were physically and mentally challenging, but our cadets were more than equal to the task.

The summer break started with the Army summer camp in July. It was warm, and many alterations were made to the training programme, but we managed a great five days of fieldcraft training, and a day out kayaking on the River Soar. A special well done to Curtis Lui, who mastered the art of rolling a kayak upright after a capsizing.

In late July, we were hosted at RAF Cranwell for a flying day, and eight very happy RAF cadets were treated to a flight in a Grob Tutor aircraft.

In August, we set off to our RAF summer camp in Lancashire. The activities included canyoning, laser tag, and a 50-metre sheer rockface abseil. Our cadets successfully took on all of the activities and made the staff very proud.

**Paul Walters**  
CCF Contingent Commander



## RATCLIFFE COLLEGE & LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY CRICKET PARTNERSHIP

Since 2019, Ratcliffe College has been an official partner of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club (LCCC). In conjunction with Mr Woodcock (Ratcliffe's Head of Cricket), this fantastic partnership enables the College to benefit from expert coaching support from LCCC professional coaching staff, including Jigar Naik (Head of Talent Pathway), Paul Johnson (ex-Nottinghamshire professional cricketer), and Dave Whitmore. This team is overseen by Claude Henderson (Director of Cricket).



The College benefits from staff training, team coaching provided by Leicestershire coaches, access to LCCC fixtures throughout the summer, and opportunities for our talented players to be scouted and entered into their age-group Pathway. In return, LCCC benefit from the outstanding facilities at Ratcliffe, playing their Under 11 to Under 15 programme on the school site during the Summer Term and the summer holidays. Our partnership with LCCC continues to go from strength to strength, and this season, we welcomed the Academy players and coaches back to the College for a gloriously sunny summer of cricket.

As part of the partnership, we have been able to recognise the cricketing talents of our students, awarding tickets for them to attend Vitality Blast matches at the Uptonsteel County Ground to cheer on the Foxes. These awards have been given to students who have been recognised by Mr Woodcock and our Sports Department for playing particularly well in school fixtures. Zara ETTY (Year 9) was nominated and attended the Foxes match against the Derbyshire Falcons; Khrish Tailor (Year 9) went to the fixture against Lancashire Lightning; Joe Davies (Year 13) and Sam Davies (Year 11) were awarded tickets for the match against the Notts Outlaws; Ayo Abiodun (Year 10) cheered on the Foxes against the Northamptonshire Steelbacks; and Jess Tuckwell (Year 7) was thrilled to be nominated to attend the match against the Yorkshire Vikings. Well done to all of our cricketers for their efforts this season.

Ratcliffe College students have continued to be selected for the Leicestershire squads this year, and congratulations go to the following students for either being part of the squads or attending the Pathway training: Rahul Khoda, Sam Macleod-Smith, John Bowden, Ben Kay, Lucas Whieldon, Hari Jobanputra, Ben Macleod-Smith, Khrish Tailor, Ernie Hoggard,



Sam Davies, Kassi Jobanputra, Maisie Leake, Isabella Simpson, Deeya Tailor, Imogen Jones, Ashleigh Page-Morris, Constance Bowden, Flora Davies, Zara ETTY, Charlotte Shield, Lily Stevenson, and Romy Totton.

At the end of the cricket season, Flora Davies (Year 9) was part of the Under 18 Leicestershire Girls' County Team who took part in the National T20 finals. Flora and the team had an excellent season; they competed hard and made it through to the semi-finals of the competition, where they lost by only 6 runs. To finish fourth in the country was a great achievement, and Flora was the top individual scorer for Leicestershire over the 2 matches during this National T20 finals weekend. Well done, Flora!

We were invited to the End-of-Season Awards evening at the Uptonsteel County Ground, and we were proud to present the Young Player of the Year Award to Rehan Ahmed. Rehan is a leg-spinner who came through the Leicestershire Academy, and he now plays professionally for LCCC. This year, he earned a maiden call-up to the England Lions, and he said that his cricketing hero is Jigar Naik, the LCCC Head of Talent Pathway.

By the end of the season, Ratcliffe had supported cricket in the county by hosting over 60 training sessions and fixtures, welcoming players, coaches, and families from Leicestershire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Jersey, Lancashire, Northamptonshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Yorkshire. We thank Chris Moody, Ratcliffe's Head of Grounds, and his team for the excellent wickets during a particularly hot summer, and for all their dedication to promoting the sport of cricket.

In addition to providing cricketing opportunities, LCCC has also hosted outdoor concerts, a firework display, and networking events at the Uptonsteel County Ground. Details of these events have been shared with parents, students, and staff, and forthcoming events are available to view at [www.leicestershireccc.co.uk](http://www.leicestershireccc.co.uk).

We are thrilled to continue our partnership with LCCC and to welcome the players, their families, and the LCCC Academy Pathway coaches back to the College for next season's cricket.

**Tracey Nightingale**  
Cricket Partnership Manager



## NEWS FROM THE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

### CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Something of a return to normality within the Chaplaincy calendar was certainly welcomed this year! From the smallest Swans to the top of the Prep School, Year 6, we learnt about Chinese New Year, World Book Day, Fairtrade, retreats to Alton Castle, and many more exciting topics. Chaplaincy assemblies each Tuesday gave us time to meditate and listen to stories from the Bible together. Class Masses also made a welcome return, and it was so lovely to see so many parents and relatives joining us in the Newman Hall as we celebrated Mass together.

Nativities were performed in front of live audiences this year, and the performances from the children certainly did not disappoint! Christingle was as beautiful a moment as ever, with the lights of the Chapel dimmed, and the children from both the Nursery and Lower Prep sharing the message that Jesus is the light of the world. Sadly, the traditional Prep School Carols by Candlelight was cancelled at the last moment, due to restrictions. However, parents were treated to a recording of performances from children across Key Stage 2, sharing the Christmas message.

First Holy Communion preparation recommenced, and this was an extraordinary year, seeing two groups of children receiving the sacrament in both the Autumn and Summer Terms. The school Chapel was full of joy on both occasions, with rapturous singing and happy faces as the children received their First Holy Communion.

Fundraising is always something that the Prep School excels at, and this year certainly was a successful one. Cake sales were as



popular as ever, with pound coins dropping into the collection pots and yummy cakes enjoyed at playtime, raising money for our chosen charities. Harvest was supported as generously as ever by the Prep School families, whilst Christmas saw us sending selection boxes to food banks in our local area. We also 'hiked to Bethlehem' again at Christmas, in aid of Young Minds, taking in the beauty of the Stations of the Cross.

### SPORTS NEWS

Once again, every child in Years 4, 5, and 6 had the opportunity to represent the Prep School in a competitive inter-school fixture in each term throughout the year - a clear demonstration of our abiding 'sport for all' ethos. On our Sports Days, every child participated in all of the athletic events; they all ran, jumped, and threw for their Houses with enthusiasm, passion, and pride. These events also demonstrated the support that the children offer one

another, celebrating together when things go well, and being there for one another when things have not quite gone as planned.

In addition, a special mention must go to our departing Year 6 children. This year has been unprecedented in terms of what our Year 6s have achieved on the sports field; they are a year like no other. They have all demonstrated a keen love of sport, dedicated themselves to extra practices, and supported each other in training and in matches at all levels, from the A team to the C team. We have never known an entire year group to all pull together on the sports field as our current Year 6s have done this year. This collective spirit, dedication to chasing their goals, and unbelievable work ethic have resulted in some incredible individual and team achievements.

### MUSIC NEWS

It has been with both relief and excitement that we have re-established Music as we know it in the Prep School. After two years of COVID-19 disruption, we are in the process of regenerating. Ensembles in the Autumn Term were able to play without social distancing, and we heard from the String Stars, Gentili Ensemble, and Chapel Choir in our end-of-term Christmas Concert and internal celebration of Carols by Candlelight. Informal Concerts for pupils in Years 1 to 6 enabled parents to reconnect with the musical development of their children.

The Newman Orchestra opened the Music Department's Spring Concert with a rapturous performance of 'Star Wars' by John Williams, and 'We Will Rock You' by Queen. We were incredibly proud of the children as young as Year 4 playing alongside the Year 8 children of the Newman Orchestra, joining together to create an impressive sound.

This year, a number of children took ABRSM music exams, and they were rewarded with certificates and mark sheets in assembly. Congratulations to them all. Everyone in the Prep School was also very excited about the return of the House Music Competition. Queen songs were learnt, and the performances were fantastic. It feels like proper music-making has, once again, returned to the Prep School!



### A FINAL FAREWELL

The end of the school year saw us bidding farewell to Fr Cann, who spent nine years as Head of the Prep School. Although tears were shed at his leaving, our end-of-year Mass allowed us to share our thanks with him for laying the foundations of the wonderful place that the Prep School has become. We shall be forever grateful to him for his fantastic leadership and support.

**Merrony Markham**

Deputy Head Prep School



## SPITFIRE & AVIATION CLUB

Progress in the Spitfire and Aviation Club continues, with the flight simulator now operational. The students have worked extremely hard to bring the simulator online, and as can be seen from the photograph, the results are amazing, and truly immersive. Not only do our students have the chance to fly a high-quality simulator, but they can also begin to learn the fundamentals of flight, including the effects of controls and the layout of an airfield circuit. The work on the simulator doesn't stop there, though, because there are many improvements to be made – for instance, can we add flight instruments in an actual panel? We also recently trialed an extension to the throttle quadrant, giving us realistic access to flaps and air-brake levers, so we will be looking to purchase those add-on items as soon as funds allow.

Construction of the replica Spitfire has continued in the CCF hangar, with the cockpit section starting to come together. We will soon reach the point where additional raw materials will be needed in order to continue the build. We have constantly been surprised by the detail of our full-size plans and, in particular, working in inches and feet has proved to be a challenge.

On the radio-controlled-model side of the club, we continue to learn the basics of flight control and how not to lose sight of the model. In particular, we are constantly struggling with the reversal of aileron control when the model is flying directly towards us.

## MOTHERS' PRAYERS

What a joyous and blessed year it has been, as we have been able to come together in person to pray for our children and loved ones on a weekly basis at Hutton Hall in the Rosmini Centre.

Praying together bonds us in a unique and special way as a community. During a period characterised by uncertainty, the Mothers' Prayers group has been a critical pillar of support to many of us. Not only do we encourage and support one another in the daily challenges of motherhood, but we also share in our joys and achievements throughout the year, giving grateful thanks to God for prayers answered.

One of our members, Sandra Chmurovicova, said: 'Mothers' Prayers is a cherished time for me. Our weekly meetings bring me great deal of peace and encouragement, and a beautiful sense of companionship'. Another mother added that this 'much-loved group' is incredibly special, because we know that we are not judged, but always supported, secure in the knowledge that what we share is in total confidence.

However, progress is being made, and some students are starting to become adept at landing.

We are planning to stage an event next summer to showcase our progress and hopefully raise some funds. If any Old Ratcliffians have the skills to assist with the club or Open Morning, I would be delighted to hear from you at [pwalters@ratcliffcollege.com](mailto:pwalters@ratcliffcollege.com).

**Paul Walters**  
CCF Contingent Commander



We often feel more uplifted and hopeful after our meetings, and ready to face the week, as it is comforting to know that we are not alone. Our group offers a warm and welcoming environment to meet mothers from all year groups, fostering many lasting friendships. This year, we have been delighted to welcome several new mums. The group also continues to grow in diversity, drawing parents from both the Prep and Senior Schools, with nationalities including Slovakian, Colombian, Singaporean, and Lebanese.

One parent said: 'In times of struggle, I try not to worry, as there's always Mothers' Prayers. It's a special place where I feel a sense of unity and peace, as we share our troubles with God in prayer'.

Outside prayer meetings, we continue to enjoy each other's company, sharing lunches, catching up over coffees, and even taking shopping trips.

**Pauline O'Sullivan**  
Parent



## LOURDES PILGRIMAGE



After two years of not being able to make our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, it was an amazing blessing for Group 512 to be able to visit once again. The group was made up of over 50 members, including the carers and those cared for, and consisted of Ratcliffe students, past students, members of staff, governors, and parents. The Old Ratcliffians that joined us were **James Clark-Pratt (Year 11 leaver 2021)**, **Richard Gamble (64)**, **Donal Heffernan (75)**, **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)**, **Tom Mulligan (11)**, **Fr Philip Sainter (69)**, **Peter Tetlow (78)**, and **Lottie Warburton (18)**.

During the week, we were able to enjoy the beautiful sights of Lourdes and, most importantly, to carry out the instructions of Our Lady: to bathe, process, and do penance.

We were fortunate to be part of the International Mass in the Underground Basilica, and also to take part in the beautiful torchlight procession. In addition, we celebrated Mass at Hosanna House and at Bartres, where St Bernadette lived and worked as a young girl. As ever, the trip to Gavarnie was a highlight, giving us time to relax and admire the amazing views. Also, much effort was made on party night, with most people wearing fancy dress, including Fr Sainter dressed as a cow!

The theme of the week was 'The Good Samaritan', and this was embodied by the compassion and generosity at work throughout the group. Special thanks go to Teresa Gamble, our group leader, Fr Sainter and Fr Meredith, our chaplains, and Sister Debs, our nurse. We thank you, God, for blessing us with a wonderful week.

**Emma Hall**  
Lay Chaplain



# THE RATCLIFFE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

During the 2021–2022 academic year, fundraising via the Foundation, thanks to the amazing support of the Ratcliffe community, has achieved an incredible £233,937. Last year's annual appeal, led by the Foundation, raised money to improve the opportunities for our current students, to support bursaries for future Ratcliffians, and to help those fleeing the crisis in Ukraine.

## SUPPORTING BIG IDEAS

We launched our new fundraising initiative, 'Supporting Big Ideas', in November 2021 with an inspiring video message from the headmaster, outlining our plans to raise funds for mid-sized projects across the College that would impact students directly. A magnificent £36,303 was raised to support these identified projects, enabling them to go ahead sooner than they might otherwise have done. A special thank you goes to the Parents' Association for their generous donation in support of this appeal. Below are some of the items purchased:

- Large-format printer for the Art students to help showcase their work
- 'Stage-in-a-Box' for the Drama students to help improve their stagecraft
- 360-degree Owl Pro webcam for various departments
- Inspirational, large-format wall graphics for the new Languages Department
- Recording studio refurbishment for the Music and Media students
- Replacement of the stage floor for the Drama students
- Outdoor classroom, complete with a renewable energy pack for the Nursery and Prep School students
- Large space heater for bigger unheated areas, such as the Sports Halls and the Aerodrome hangar, where students attend co-curricular activities or PA events occur during the winter months
- Veo 360-degree sports camera for various teams, PE, and the Sports Department
- Van de Graaff generator for our Science students
- New scrum practice 'sled' machine for the rugby teams



## BURSARY APPEAL

We continue to raise much-needed money for our Bursary Fund. This year, our community has raised £117,316 specifically for this important cause, helping families who could not otherwise access an education for their child at Ratcliffe.

## RATCLIFFE GOLF DAY

Our fifth annual Ratcliffe Golf Day took place on a beautifully sunny day in September, at the equally beautiful Rothley Park Golf Club. Over 50 golfers took part, competing for £1,000-worth of prizes, and 60 people joined us for the prize-giving dinner in the evening. This year's winners were 'B & S Builders', consisting of Messrs Driver, Pietrzyk, Cullen, and Logan, who won by 7 clear points. Thanks to some very generous donations from those in attendance, including parents, grandparents, Old Ratcliffians, and sponsors, the day raised £2,750 towards the Ratcliffe Bursary Appeal. A big thank you to all those involved.



## THE UKRAINIAN CRISIS APPEAL

This appeal raised £80,318, thanks to a fantastic response from over 100 parents, staff, and Old Ratcliffians, a substantial supportive donation from Uptonsteel, and not forgetting £450 raised by Sixth Form student Shreya Mistry, who donated the proceeds of her fashion show (see page 32). This money enabled two local Ukrainian refugees to attend our four-week English Language Immersion residential course in June and July, and it will also help us to support four Ukrainian students who are now attending Ratcliffe for the next two years of their education.

## THE CLASS OF 2022: SUPPORTING FUTURE RATCLIFFIANS

In recognition of the Class of 2022, we have created a photomosaic image which is soon to be displayed on the outside wall of the Sixth Form Centre. The photomosaic is composed of headshots of all of last year's Year 13 students (the Class of 2022), which then combine to make up an image of the College. 21 families from the Class of 2022 generously supported the Sixth Form Leavers' Fund this year, providing over £5,000 of funding towards student bursaries, and those families are recognised beneath the mosaic on a special donor board.

## SUMMER BALL

The end of the Summer Term was marked by the 175th Anniversary Summer Ball, which saw 200 guests raise over £9,000 as part of the evening's activities. This money was generously matched by one of our parents, leaving us with another £5,000 needed for the new climbing and bouldering wall which we were fundraising for. Thanks to the Parents' Association's further £5,000 donation, we have been able to place our order for the wall, which was successfully installed in November 2022.

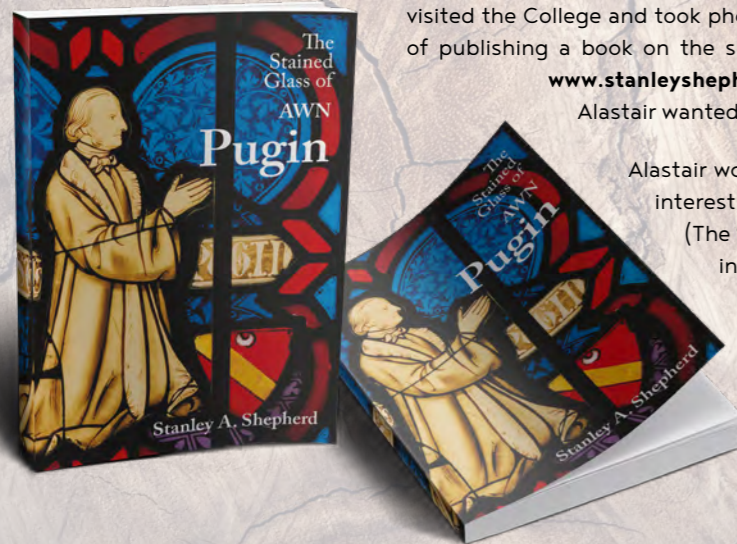


## THANK YOU

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated in the past year, those who have donated for the first time, and especially those parents and grandparents who support the Foundation on a regular basis.

**Andrew Yell & Louise Liston**  
Foundation Office

## PUGIN'S WINDOWS ARE PUBLISHED



You may remember reading an article about Pugin's stained-glass windows in the 2019 issue of *The Old Ratcliffian* magazine. That year, architectural photographer Alastair Carew-Cox visited the College and took photographs of Pugin's windows in the Old Library, with the vision of publishing a book on the subject in 2020. The project eventually turned into a website,

[www.stanleyshepherdpuginstainedglass.com](http://www.stanleyshepherdpuginstainedglass.com), and it was completed recently. Alastair wanted the Old Ratcliffians to be the first to see it!

Alastair would also like to thank those Old Ratcliffians who have shown an interest in his work and sponsored the project via his Go Get Funding page (The Stained Glass of AWN Pugin). He said: 'I hope to add more images in the future, if funding allows, so I am keeping the sponsorship page live. Sponsors receive limited-edition greetings cards, etc., as thanks for their support.'

For more information about Alastair and his work, visit his website, [www.alastaircarew-cox.com](http://www.alastaircarew-cox.com).

## 24-HOUR CHARITY SPORTS CHALLENGE

The first of the annual school sport-based charity events took place over the weekend of March 18th–20th 2022. The event was supported in much larger numbers than we first anticipated, with many students, staff, parents, and Old Ratcliffians taking part.

The event started at 3pm on the Friday and went on continuously throughout the day and night until 3pm on the Sunday afternoon. It was mainly held in the Fitness Suite, but also outside on the track, around the school, and in the swimming pool, with many also completing distances on Strava.

The end distance that we hoped to achieve was 3,872 miles, but we never thought that we would reach anywhere near that total. We were, however, pleasantly surprised when, by the end of Sunday afternoon, we had completed 3,205 miles. We also raised over £1,000 for the Royal British Legion over the weekend.

A huge thank you to all those who helped out and gave up their time to come and support the event, especially ORs **Liam Cradden (88)** and **Matt Rowlett (91)**, who came in for hours at a time and completed many, many miles. Thank you, also, to the families that completed miles in the early hours with me, to all the boarding students who came in at all hours throughout the day and night, and, of course, to OR **Brian Beeby (69)** from Swithland Water, who kindly donated some liquid refreshment!

### Mark Edwards

Resident Assistant Housemaster & SSI CCF



# THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT...



## ...THAN THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH BURSARIES

Ratcliffe College has been helping to shape the lives of its students since 1847, and it has always provided a great sense of community. We believe that, where possible, we should help and support those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Bursaries can be transformational, and that is why we are asking for your support. By giving a little each month, together with other Old Ratcliffians, you can support students who demonstrate immense potential, but whose financial circumstances mean that they would not otherwise be able to attend Ratcliffe.

### LEAVING A LEGACY

We appreciate that not everyone has the ability to give now, and some may prefer to demonstrate their support by giving a gift to the College in their will. Leaving a legacy is a great way to support school bursaries, and it can genuinely change young people's lives, both whilst they are at Ratcliffe, and beyond.

If you have already made a provision for Ratcliffe in your will, then please do let us know, as we would very much like the opportunity to express our gratitude now for your future gift.

For more information, please contact the Development Team on +44(0)1509 817000, by email at [development@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:development@ratcliffecollege.com), or visit [www.ratcliffecollegefoundation.com](http://www.ratcliffecollegefoundation.com).



## Encouraging **Big Ideas**



### MARKETING UPDATE

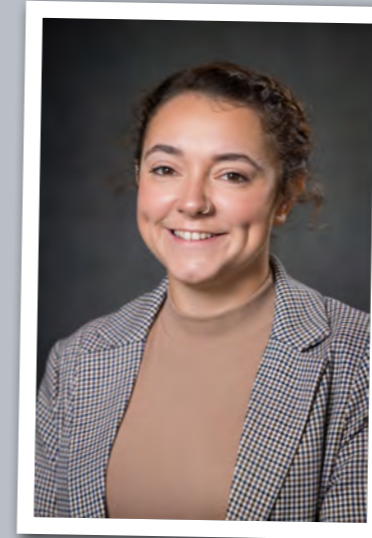
It's been yet another busy year for the Ratcliffe College Marketing and Admissions Department, with plenty of developments, exciting campaigns, and changes to the team all happening at once.

One of the highlights this year has been the welcome return to face-to-face physical events. It has been fantastic to open our doors for the two main College-wide Open Mornings and the Sixth Form Evening, allowing us to showcase everything we have to offer. We've also been able to travel abroad and continue our hard work to grow Ratcliffe's numbers and broaden the diversity within our unique boarding community.

Following the success of our very well-received 'Encouraging Big Ideas' video in 2020, we developed a companion video which focuses on our distinct Nursery and Prep School offer. Once again, it was a pleasure to work with Affixius Films (founded by Old Ratcliffians **Miles Latham (03)** and **Tim Cabrelli (03)**), not to mention the real stars of the show - the many smiley, happy, and professional young people from our Nursery and Prep School. If you missed our 2021 'Big Ideas Start Small' video, you can watch it at [www.ratcliffcollege.com/prep](http://www.ratcliffcollege.com/prep).



We have also enjoyed showcasing the various upgrades and refurbishments in the school, including the Sixth Form Café, the Servery, the bedrooms in Boarding, and, of course, our brand-new English Language Centre (pictured, left). We also look forward to launching drone footage and 360 virtual experiences in 2023.



The team itself has had a slight restructure, in line with our strategic goals, which has brought to us three new faces. Mr Joe Allen joins us as our new Admissions Manager, Miss Rebecca Hill is our new Marketing Executive, and Mrs Sophie Noctor has taken the role of Boarding Recruitment Manager. We are very lucky to have these three specialists on board, and over the last year, we have seen just how much positive change they have brought to the department and, in turn, to the school roll.

As we aim to continually grow the reputation of Ratcliffe College beyond Leicester and beyond the UK, we are very excited about the year ahead, which looks to be our biggest yet. Here's to more success, and a bright future for all.

#### **Ian Blackmore-Allen**

Head of Marketing & Admissions



## RATCLIFFE COLLEGE SIXTH FORM BURSARIES & SCHOLARSHIPS

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

The College welcomes applications from Old Ratcliffians and those in sympathy with the Catholic ethos of the School. All bursaries are subject to meeting the School's entry requirements and (parental) means-tested assessments, which may be reviewed annually.

The College would like to recognise the support of the Ratcliffian Association and Cunningham Fund, and the Peter Daley Foundation, which regularly contribute to student bursaries at Ratcliffe. In exceptional cases, the Sir Thomas White Charity may provide a 100% bursary (day fee) for one strong academic student joining Ratcliffe from the state sector and living in Leicestershire.

We also offer Academic, Sports and Creative (Music, Drama or Art and Design) Scholarships, worth between 5%-20% of the school fee.

To find out more, or to speak to the Admissions Team, call 01509 817072 or visit [www.ratcliffcollege.com/admissions](http://www.ratcliffcollege.com/admissions).

[www.ratcliffcollege.com](http://www.ratcliffcollege.com)



# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL



## NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

### NEW RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION AMBASSADORS

This term, we were very pleased to welcome on board our new Ratcliffian Association Ambassadors for 2022–2023. Year 13 students Emily Spillane and Daisy Shore will support the work of the Association and its engagement with fellow students. Daisy said: 'As I'm in my final year at Ratcliffe, I want to be able to prepare myself and my year group for the next stage in our lives, whilst also keeping the strong bond that we all have developed. I hope to encourage my year group to stay in touch over the coming years, just as my mother and her brother have done with their year groups from Ratcliffe.'

### ASSOCIATION EVENTS

The Ratcliffian Association Office has been very busy this year, bringing the social events calendar back up to its full potential. With the wide range of events already hosted this year, there have been plenty of opportunities for ORs to get together, and it has been truly wonderful seeing them reunite. 2023 events planning is also well underway. In particular, the 50-year anniversary is looking to become a staple event, now being in its second year and very well attended. We have already heard from the Class of '73, who are looking to celebrate theirs. With so much coming up, be sure to keep an eye on your email inbox, and remember to visit the Events section of the Association website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk), regularly.

### NEW ADDITION TO THE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

The Association is delighted to welcome **Amy Shaw (née Lang) (10)** onto the council, representing those who left Ratcliffe between 10 and 20 years ago; she will be officially voted in at her first council meeting in November. It is clear from speaking to Amy that she has a real passion for Ratcliffe. She previously volunteered at the Summer Ball in 2016, helping the Association team with the interior design of the marquee, before attending the event in the evening with many of her classmates. Amy said: 'I was thrilled to be asked to join the council, as I would love to get more involved with the school. One day, our children might even go to Ratcliffe, too, which would be lovely!'



### YOUR NEWS

The Association website is all about Ratcliffe's history and, just as importantly, about Old Ratcliffians. We would love you to share your great stories, life experiences, and successes with your fellow ORs. Just email us at [alumni@ratcliffcollege.com](mailto:alumni@ratcliffcollege.com), and we will include your news on the website.

## THE RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S VISION

Fellow Old Ratcliffians,

I have asked to occupy a part of the magazine this year to bring you something different – an outline of some ideas that I have, which, I hope, will breathe fresh energy into the Association. My central theme is focused around increasing the alumni's motivation towards Association events, through an increased sense of achievement, a focus on belonging, and more control over events for you and your year groups. However, as they say, culture eats strategy for breakfast; the Association is a joint venture, and I can't do this alone – I need you, and your ideas. My nine objectives are as follows:

### CLUBS

Although sport has always been a success for the Association, we must accept the fact that not everyone enjoys a particular sport. There are other hobbies – from astronomy to crafts, the list is endless. I would like to facilitate these clubs for the Association, where possible (which may be online only). Again, I need your input, so please get in touch if you have an idea for a club.

### ASSOCIATION DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

At school, my year group talked about undertaking a Duke of Edinburgh's Platinum Award (or Emerald, etc.), but the idea never took hold once we left. There will soon be an opportunity to express your interest in a potential expedition for the Association, which I will lead. Interest dependent, the first one could be in the summer of 2023.

### UNIVERSITY REPS

A way in which recent Ratcliffe leavers could really support the school would be by putting themselves forward as University Reps, supporting current Sixth Form students in their university choices. These ORs could be a friendly face and support prior to arrival, offering all the best tips, places to go or avoid, sharing where the best deals are, and so on. If you are at university and wish to put yourself forward, please get in touch.

### SMALL-SCALE SOCIAL EVENTS

I would really like to impress upon you all that you can arrange small-scale events for your year group (or groups). These could include five-a-side football tournaments, round-robin tennis matches, or even a curry in the Old Rats Bar. Whatever your ideas, please get in touch with the Ratcliffian Association and discuss your plans with them.

### MORE SPORT

We currently do golf, hockey, and cricket very well, but I have no doubt that there are many other interests out there, such as cycling, for example. If you wish to be involved in setting up a new sport, please get in touch.

### HOUSE COMPETITIONS

I would like to scope the possibility of establishing a House Competition for the Association. The idea is embryonic at this stage, but essentially, you would earn points for attendance at



events, and for feats whilst at events, such as Player of the Match at sporting events (or goals, or saves, etc.). This could run in line with the school year, contributing to the school's House Competition, and in the long-term, it would bring closer ties between time spent at school and the running of the Association House Competition. Also, you wouldn't want to let down the younger members of your House, would you?!

### LARGER EVENTS

To tie the House Competition into larger events, if it started with the school in September, the midpoint would be around Christmas, and an update could be announced at the London Dinner. At the end of the academic year, the winner would be declared, and the Summer Ball could then be the ball of the winning House.

### ASSOCIATION SHOP STOCK

To supplement these ideas, I would like to reinvigorate the Association Shop stock, to include such items as House bow ties or brooches. That way, at black-tie events, we could each display a token of our House unity and support towards the House Competition – the greater the display of devotion, the more the points! I think that a real strength of this idea is that it presents an opportunity to bridge that year-group gap (however big or small) with people who are new to you at larger events.

### MEMORANDA

An item that is more formal, but no less important, is the fact that we do not currently have any real record of what the Association is or does, its history, customs, or its traditions. I am working with the Association Council and Past Presidents on a document to propose at the next AGM: a tome of all things Association. This can be made available to any of you who are interested in ensuring that we propose a strong first draft.

For all of the above to happen, I need your support. I need you to register for events, pick up the phone to Amanda and Katherine in the Association Office, or help me to develop a Social Committee. If any of the above has piqued your interest, and you would like to help in any way, we'd love to hear from you – just email [alumni@ratcliffcollege.com](mailto:alumni@ratcliffcollege.com).

**Dan Amies (10)**

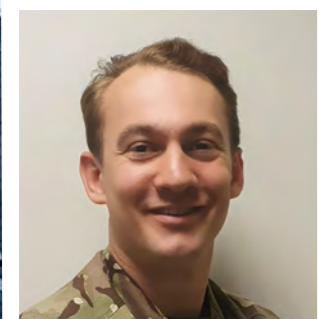
President of the Ratcliffian Association

# COUNCIL MEMBERS 2022-2023

# YEAR GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

COUNCIL

COUNCIL



**PRESIDENT:**  
DAN AMIES (10)



**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
JON REDDIN (HEADMASTER)



**VICE PRESIDENT:**  
CHRIS MERRIMAN (83)



**10 YEARS OR LESS:**  
SOPHIE RILEY (15)



**10 YEARS OR LESS:**  
ANNABEL WRIGHT (16)



**10 - 20 YEARS:**  
AMY SHAW (NÉE LANG) (10)



**ASSOCIATION MANAGER:**  
AMANDA MOLE



**ASSOCIATION SECRETARY  
& MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:**  
KATHERINE LANG



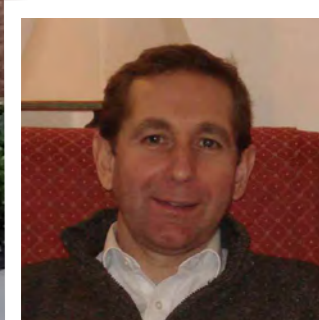
**10 - 20 YEARS:**  
ELISABETH  
CARLEY-LEONARD (10)



**30 - 40 YEARS:**  
BENEDICT HEATH (87)



**40 - 50 YEARS:**  
STEVE CLARK (79)



**HONORARY TREASURER:**  
SIMON BURNS (83)



**RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION  
CHAPLAIN:**  
FR PHILIP SAINTER (69)



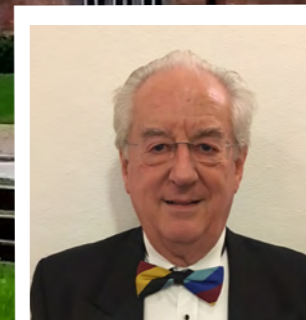
**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE  
& OPERATIONS:**  
CHRIS BELLAMY



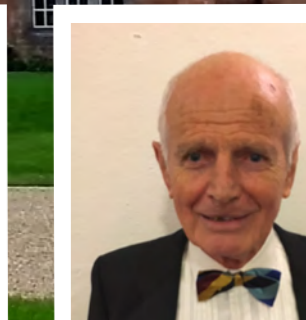
**40 - 50 YEARS:**  
MARK GAMBLE (71)



**40 - 50 YEARS:**  
PETER ASTILL (71)



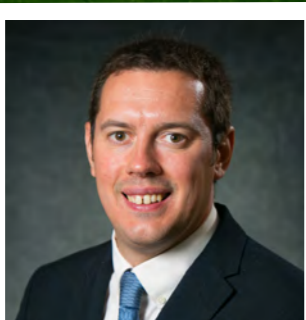
**50 - 60 YEARS:**  
RICHARD GAMBLE (64)



**60 - 70 YEARS:**  
DICK CUNNINGHAM (59)



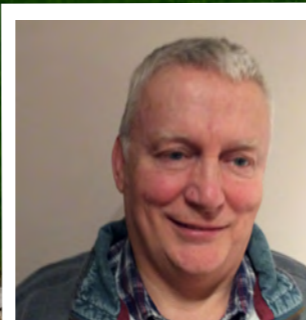
**PAST PRESIDENTS'  
DINNER COORDINATOR:**  
MICHAEL HEATH (56)



**SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER:**  
BEN HARRISON



**DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:**  
ANDREW YELL (82)



**RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION &  
CUNNINGHAM FUND TRUSTEE:**  
RICHARD ARMITAGE (71)



**60 - 70 YEARS:**  
MICHAEL COKER (52)



**PAST PRESIDENT:**  
BEN JACKSON (88)



**PAST PRESIDENT:**  
EMMA WRIGHT (94)

## CAREERS DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

As mentioned in last year's *Old Ratcliffian*, three Year 12 students were awarded funds through the 2021 Careers Development Competition, kindly sponsored by OR **Dominic Russell (78)** of Russell Properties. This competition was originally set up by the Careers Office, following a generous donation from an Old Ratcliffian. For three years, we have been able to secure sponsorship for the competition, enabling our Year 12 students to bid for a share of a £1,000 fund, providing access to opportunities and resources that support their career aspirations. We caught up with the winners of the 2021 competition, Kitty Ye, Vyashti Rajpara, and Shreya Mistry, who told us how they spent their funds.

Kitty, who is a full-time boarder, put her funding towards InvestIN's Young Medic work experience programme. This allowed her to shadow and network with current doctors, so that she could better understand how multi-disciplinary teams work together to deliver care for patients, and supported her in undertaking voluntary work within a local healthcare centre. Kitty is now making an application to medical school, and she believes that these experiences have been invaluable.

Vyashti (pictured, below) spent her funds on InvestIN's Young Lawyer programme, supporting her aspirations to become a solicitor. She enthused about her experience in London: 'I was able to fully immerse myself in the experiences of a solicitor/barrister, giving me a useful insight into working both as a prosecutor in court, and as a corporate solicitor in a firm. To be able to talk to, and ask questions of, some of the leading legal professionals across the UK helped me to find my passions within law, and to truly understand the importance of the work of legal professionals'. Vyashti is applying to law schools this year.

Shreya (pictured, below) had a more unusual request, in that she wanted to work with other students to put on a charity fashion show in the Summer Term, supporting her own aspirations to enter fashion marketing and merchandising. She explained: 'On July 6th 2022, the Year 12 students and I hosted "Fashion Through the Decades", in support of our Ukrainian Aid appeal. Thanks to parents and friends, we managed to raise £450! The start-up fund that I was awarded enabled me to recruit a wider team of students from a variety of year groups, each with an interest in fashion design, marketing, event management, or production. Seeing all of our hard work, and my vision, come to life in the fashion show was incredible. I learnt so much about myself, and about leading a team.'

Our gratitude goes to Mr Russell for supporting this initiative and allowing these students to gain such valuable, hands-on experience. If your company would like to sponsor any future career-based initiatives like this, please get in touch with the Development Team at [development@ratcliffcollege.com](mailto:development@ratcliffcollege.com).



## WORKING WITH THE COLLEGE

### COLLEGE OPEN MORNING

Amanda Mole was delighted to be asked to represent the Ratcliffian Association at the College's Open Morning on September 24th 2022. It was a great opportunity to welcome prospective parents and to talk to them about how the Association adds value to past College pupils' experiences.

experience and knowledge with the Year 13 students. Please email Amanda Mole at [alumni@ratcliffcollege.com](mailto:alumni@ratcliffcollege.com) if you'd like to get involved.

### MOCK INTERVIEWS

In April 2022, several ORs and the Ratcliffian Association team, along with the Development Office staff, volunteered their time to support students by conducting Year 11 mock interviews, giving the students an opportunity to practise their interview answers and receive feedback.



### GAP YEAR COMPETITION

Annually, the Association holds a competition for Year 13 gap-year students, with a chance to win £250. This year's winner, Jamie Hollis, will be embarking on a charity cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats. The money that he won will go towards buying essential equipment. Inspiration came from his cousin's epic cycle from Leicester to Brisbane, Australia, which took around a year. We look forward to reading Jamie's story in next year's magazine.

### NETWORKING EVENT

The Ratcliffian Association is working closely with Kate Grace, Ratcliffe's Head of Careers, to organise a networking evening on March 9th 2023. The Association would love to hear from any Old Ratcliffians who'd like to attend and share their industry



# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

## YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2021

PROFIT & LOSS	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Subscriptions</b>		
School	44,946	41,252
Direct	4,547	4,722
	<b>49,493</b>	<b>45,974</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Old Ratcliffian - School Contribution	2,050	2,000
Old Ratcliffian - Advertising & Donations	0	975
Merchandise Profit	550	57
Events Profit/(Loss)	830	4
Donations	62	0
Bank Interest	0	0
	<b>3,492</b>	<b>3,036</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>52,985</b>	<b>49,010</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salaries	(30,884)	(23,636)
Old Ratcliffian - Printing	(8,482)	(7,830)
Maintenance & Bar	(18)	(4,054)
Old Ratcliffian - Post & Packing	(3,173)	(3,341)
Website & Computer	(2,251)	(2,462)
Leavers' Presentation Gifts	(2,124)	(1,929)
Postage, Stationery & Phone	(543)	(814)
Professional Fees	(960)	(625)
Donations	(250)	(550)
Subscriptions	(489)	(385)
Depreciation	0	(272)
Bank & Miscellaneous Charges	(238)	(242)
Miscellaneous Expenses	(40)	(152)
Travel & Subsistence	(59)	(91)
Gifts & Trophies	(107)	(21)
Event Clothing	0	0
Advertising	0	0
Printing & Copying	0	0
	<b>(49,618)</b>	<b>(46,404)</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>(49,618)</b>	<b>(46,404)</b>
<b>Profit for Year</b>	<b>3,367</b>	<b>2,606</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Computer Equipment (Undepreciated)	0	0
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank Balance	52,270	48,505
Merchandise Stock	4,156	5,152
Debtors & Prepayments	5,276	1,084
Bar Stock	413	99
Cash	314	254
	<b>62,429</b>	<b>55,094</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>62,429</b>	<b>55,094</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accruals	(14,730)	(10,724)
Creditors & Prepaid Income	0	(38)
	<b>(14,730)</b>	<b>(10,762)</b>
<b>Net Assets/Worth</b>	<b>47,699</b>	<b>44,332</b>
<b>Accumulated Fund of the Ratcliffian Association</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	44,332	41,726
Profit For Year	3,367	2,606
<b>Increased Balance Carried Forward</b>	<b>47,699</b>	<b>44,332</b>

# DID YOU KNOW...

## THE OLD RATCLIFFIAN MAGAZINE IS DISTRIBUTED TO OVER 2,500 ORs WORLDWIDE?

That's over 2,500 potential customers, or new business contacts, across the globe!

**WE WELCOME OLD RATCLIFFIAN BUSINESS OWNERS TO REACH OUT TO THIS FANTASTIC COMMUNITY, AND TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCTION OF THIS MUCH-LOVED MAGAZINE AT THE SAME TIME, BY ADVERTISING WITH US!**

For more details, get in touch at [alumni@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:alumni@ratcliffecollege.com) or call us on **01509 817054**

# THANK YOU!

...to all those Old Ratcliffians who have contributed to this year's magazine. Your input is vital, and it's what makes this magazine so special!

## IT'S TIME TO GET IN TOUCH!

The Old Ratcliffian magazine is all about connecting ORs and keeping the spirit of Ratcliffe alive, and that's why we need you!

Work has already begun on the 2023 edition, so if you have some news to share, a story to tell, or an idea for a feature you'd like to see on these pages next year, we'd love to hear from you!

Get in touch at:  
[alumni@ratcliffecollege.com](mailto:alumni@ratcliffecollege.com)  
 or on **01509 817054**



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# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION EVENTS



## CLASS OF 1972: 50 YEAR REUNION SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2022

The Class of 1972 returned to Ratcliffe in October to celebrate their 50th anniversary of leaving. The event was organised by **Brendan O'Reilly (72)**, with the group requesting an informal 'curry and beer night', which took place in the Old Library.

The event began with a tour of the school, starting in the Old Ratcliffian Bar. The group were delighted with this impressive-looking space, compared to the old hut that used to stand in its place. The Peter Daley Suite and the donor wall were also of interest to the group.

The familiar corridors outside the Headmaster's Office were also trodden again, with the group enjoying looking at the old school photographs on the wall. They were surprised by the development of the Lockhart Garden, but they still recalled the familiar feel of the Colonnade and the Tuck Shop. Many memories were shared about their time spent together in boarding.

After a visit to the Chapel to conclude their tour, a welcome beer was ready for them in the Refectory, before a buffet-style curry was served by the Ratcliffe catering staff in the Old Library.

Those who attended the evening were: **Charles Weidner (72), Robert Woodward (72), Ian McEvoy (72), Jamie O'Donnell (60), Brendan O'Reilly (72), Nigel Coxon (72), Simon Fox (72), Frank Finnegan (72), Anthony Newman (72), Charles Tetlow (73), Kieran Bransfield (72), John Bradley (72), Andrew Wilmot (72), Robert Forstner (72), Ashley Harrington (72), Chris Castell (72), and Mike Ogilvie (72)**. Regrettably, **Matthew Lindley (72)** was unable to attend, due to COVID.

After the event, Simon Fox contacted Amanda Mole, Association Manager. He said: 'Big thanks to you and Katherine for all your work and effort putting together our special event. I know everyone had a great time, and it definitely enhanced their memories of Ratcliffe, though we did struggle to come to terms with the concept of a school without a caning room!'

Brendan O'Reilly added: 'Thank you for a wonderful evening on Saturday. We loved the tour, the selection of beers was excellent, and the curries were very tasty. Please pass my thanks on to Katherine, who was lovely.'



## CLASS OF 2017: 5 YEAR REUNION SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2022

The Ratcliffian Association welcomed the Class of 2017 back to the school in October to celebrate their five-year reunion. The event took place in the Old Ratcliffian Bar, with cocktails and canapés served on arrival, whilst the acoustic duo Embers played tunes to chat to.

Members of the teaching staff who knew the cohort were also invited to attend. Mrs Cole was delighted to catch up with her Duke of Edinburgh's Award students, whilst Mr and Mrs Reddin enjoyed chatting to former students and hearing about their new lives away from the College.

Prior to this, a tour of the school was offered to the group, with the first stop being the newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre. The ORs were wowed by the new space, but they noticed the absence of their beloved pool table. Thankfully, after speaking with Helen Grant, Head of Boarding, they learnt that it was safe in storage and would be returning.

The tour continued through the school into the Lockhart Garden, which was another new development since their departure. They questioned where the boys could now play football, but appreciated the beauty of the space, especially the central fountain. After a nostalgic trip to the Ref, where they enjoyed sitting on the chairs at the long tables, the group visited the Chapel, before heading back to the OR Bar to meet up with more classmates.

The host for the evening, **Finlay Butler (17)**, took to the microphone halfway through the evening to thank everyone for attending, and he also thanked the Association for hosting such a lovely event. **Holly Blount (17)**, who also attended, said: 'It was fantastic to see so many school friends after such a long time. We are a tight group following our years at Ratcliffe together, and it was great to catch up and share memories.'



## THE LONDON DINNER SATURDAY 2ND APRIL 2022

The OR community could not wait to reunite at the London Dinner in April, as this popular event had not taken place since 2020.

Held in the historical St Etheldreda's Crypt, Mass was celebrated by **Fr Philip Sainter (69)** in the Chapel, followed by a drinks reception and a delicious four-course meal.

The traditional toasts were given, with further speeches from Association President **Ben Jackson (88)**, Headmaster Jon Reddin, and Vice President **Dan Amies (10)**. The toastmaster for the evening was **Dick Cunningham (59)**.

This annual event is always a highlight of the calendar, and we look forward to welcoming more familiar faces to the next dinner on February 3rd 2023. More details are available on our website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk).



## THE PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2022

The Old Ratcliffian Past Presidents attended their 23rd annual dinner in the Old Library, provided as an act of grateful thanks and appreciation for all that they do, and have done, over many years, for the College. The evening started with an intimate Mass, held in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and concelebrated by **Bishop John Arnold (71)** and **Fr Simon Giles (60)**.

A drinks reception followed in the Old Library, with guests enjoying speaking with Headmaster Jon Reddin and fellow Past Presidents in this formal and traditional gathering. **Michael Heath (56)**, toastmaster for the evening, then called the gentlemen for dinner. Bishop John Arnold said grace, before the group enjoyed a salmon starter, followed by fillet of beef, with strawberry cheesecake for dessert.

After dinner, a pre-recorded speech was delivered from the current Association President, **Dan Amies (10)**, who was away in Canada as part of his role in the British Army. He praised the work of the Association as he began his new role, and he invited

all Past Presidents to contact him, to ensure that he captured the traditions and values of the Association in his memoranda. His speech ended with a toast to the school and its headmaster.

Jon Reddin responded with his speech, informing the guests of the school's outstanding academic performance, and sharing with them details of the recent arrival of four Ukrainian students, thanks to Old Ratcliffian supporters and donors. Finally, he offered a toast to the Ratcliffian Association and its presidents.

**David Jolliffe (64)** proposed a loyal toast, with it being the first occasion, for some members, of toasting the King. An additional toast to the Rosminians was proposed by **Michael Coker (52)**. Cheese and port were then served, with tea and coffee to follow.

Other Past Presidents in attendance were: **Dick Cunningham (59)**, **Richard Gamble (64)**, **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, **Paul Rudd (60)**, and **Anthony Holland (56)**. We thank them all for helping to make this event such a success.



## THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER BALL SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2022

The Ratcliffian Association was delighted to work in partnership with the Foundation and the Parents' Association to deliver a spectacular celebration. The marquee on the College lawn was decorated beautifully by members of the PA, creating an 'Enchanted Summer's Evening' theme, which set the scene for the 175th Anniversary Summer Ball on Saturday 2nd July.

Beginning the evening with a drinks reception, accompanied by music from acoustic band Monroe Duo, over 200 guests were then seated for a three-course Italian-themed meal, in recognition

of our Italian founder, Blessed Antonio Rosmini. After dinner and a short auction, the guests were treated to more live music and dancing, thanks to the band Swagger, who got everyone on the dancefloor.

Thanks to the generous support of several event sponsors, along with the generosity of guests entering the raffle and auction, the event raised a total of £9,350 towards the Foundation appeal, which aims to provide a climbing and bouldering wall for our students in the Autumn Term.



## 175TH ANNIVERSARY MASS SUNDAY 3RD JULY 2022

The Ratcliffe College Chapel hosted a magnificent celebration on Sunday 3rd July to mark the 175th Anniversary of the College. Governors, trustees, staff members, ORs, parents, and members of the Rosminian community gathered for Mass, presided over by the Bishop of Nottingham, Patrick McKinney. The main concelebrant was the Father General of the Institute of Charity, Fr Marco Tanghetti, who was joined by 12 priests from the Rosminian Order, including **Fr Philip Sainter (69)**, **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, **Fr David Tobin (59)**, **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)**, and **Fr Simon Giles (60)**.

Three Ratcliffe pupils received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Mass, making it a joyful and spiritual occasion for them, their families, and all in attendance.

After Mass, the guests were welcomed into the Lockhart Garden for drinks, followed by a celebratory lunch in the Refectory. This was attended by various dignitaries, including the Chair of the Parents' Association and the President of the Ratcliffian Association. An enjoyable afternoon was then spent watching the annual Grand Match between the College's 1st XI cricket team and the ORs.



# RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION SPORTS EVENTS



## THE REYNARD TROPHY SUNDAY 29TH MAY 2022

On a baking hot Sunday in May, the ORs teed up at Rothley Park Golf Club to vie for the Reynard Trophy. With the course being in exceptional condition and the wind only gusting, it was a perfect day for golf.

At the halfway point, **Alex Purcell (19)** was in the lead by a solitary point, followed by **Joe Charles (07)**, with **Bernard Murphy (67)** completing the top three. At the conclusion of the round, the three halfway leaders remained at the top of the leader board, but the order had changed. Joe had made up the difference to Alex and shared the same score of 31 points, ensuring that Joe won on countback, by the finest of margins. Bernard Murphy finished in the third spot.

Longest Drive was won by **James Fagence-Browne (07)**, and Alex Purcell took the prize for Nearest the Pin.

2022 players: **Keith Edgar (03)**, **Bernard Murphy (67)**, **Sean Kelly (81)**, **Alex Purcell (19)**, **Freddie Bridgwood (19)**, **Donal Heffernan (75)**, **James Fagence-Browne (07)**, **Joe Charles (07)**, **Luke George (07)**, and **Paul Morris (06)**.

**Keith Edgar (03)**  
Golf Captain



## THE CENTENARY SALVER FRIDAY 22ND APRIL 2022

The Old Ratcliffian team finished in silver medal position at the Centenary Salver event that took place at Luffenham Heath Golf Club. Despite narrowly missing out to the Old Loughburians by only 2 points, they were thrilled to beat both of their old rivals, the Old Oakhamians and the Old Stamfordians.

This year's players (pictured, from left to right) were: **Sean Kelly (81)**, **Dominic Russell (78)**, **Andrew Yell (82)**, **Jim West (77)**, and **Bernard Murphy (67)** (seated).



## THE GRAND MATCH SUNDAY 3RD JULY 2022

Ratcliffe's 1st XI team entered the Grand Match having endured a tough season, and when the OR team sheet was revealed, it looked like they were in for a challenging day; OR captain, **Matt Hilton (90)**, had assembled a formidable team.

As usual, the school bowled and fielded with decent control, managing to dismiss star men **Aled King (21)** and **Toby Snell (19)** for little contribution. **Tom Page (21)** anchored the innings with a solid 61, allowing them to reach a competitive total. In reply, the 1st XI struggled to score runs, as they had done for much of the season, with **Warren Birchall (97)** picking up 3 wickets. However, Josh Parsons scoring a 50 held the innings together for the school, and they saw the game out for a comfortable draw.



Ratcliffe's stand-in captain, Ben Ashford, retained the trophy for the school for another year, presented by Headmaster Jon Reddin. Sam Pick was awarded the Vernon Trophy for Most Improved Senior Player, and Josh Parsons took the Foulds Trophy for Player of the Match. There were plenty of spectators on the day, as the Ratcliffian Association welcomed ORs, their families, and school parents to enjoy a barbecue while watching the match.

Thank you to this year's OR team: **Matt Hilton (90)**, **Rupert Adcock (90)**, **Oli Welch (20)**, **Lee Buckby (97)**, **Karl Smith (97)**, **Warren Birchall (97)**, **Mark Snutch (97)**, **Toby Snell (19)**, **Tom Page (21)**, **Aled King (21)**, and **George Morgan-Jones (19)**.

**Edward Woodcock**  
Head of Cricket





## THE RATCLIFFIAN GOLF SHIELD SUNDAY 26TH JUNE 2022

In late June, Beedles Lake Golf Club hosted the Ratcliffian Golf Shield event. The OR team of **Keith Edgar (03)**, **Alison Court (née Mason) (98)**, **James Fagence-Browne (07)**, **Luke George (07)**, and **Joe Charles (07)**, supported by **Chris Morris (08)**, **Sean Kelly (81)**, and **Joe Allen (07)**, took on the school representatives, captained by Ethan Zhang.

Joe took the first point, winning his match against Ethan. The school then took back a point and moved into the lead, with Mr Michel and Mr Donegan winning their matches against ORs James and Luke respectively. Alison put on an exceptional display to bring the scores level, leaving the final match to decide who would have their name on the trophy. Needing to halve the match to retain the trophy, Keith did not let his OR team down, winning his match and ensuring that the shield was theirs for another year.

**Keith Edgar (03)**  
Golf Captain



# OLD RATCLIFFIAN NEWS

**Alasdair Macmillan (58)**: 'I moved to East Sussex in 2019, and I now live in a very modern apartment block designed for elderly folk who wish to maintain their independence. It is right in the centre of Seaford and houses some 30 like-minded residents who have created a very friendly community. I had planned an 80th birthday celebration in June 2020, but this had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. **Jonty Myles (57)** and **Peter Casartelli (56)** also live in Sussex, and they, together with my family, urged me to revive the planned party. Hence, the "Celebration of Age" was launched, to be held in the autumn of 2022. Pictured, below, from left to right, are **Dick Cunningham (59)**, **Mike Waldron (58)**, Peter Casartelli, myself, **Nigel Jewell (58)**, and Jonty Myles. Three other contemporaries of mine, **David Tobin (60)**, **John Castell (59)**, and **Peter Rowan (68)**, were, sadly, unable to join the party. There were 65 guests in all who gathered on October 8th 2022. In addition, this year, I have been urged by friends to have much of my artwork printed. I have, so far, produced 12 different designs of greetings cards, which have proved popular. Recently, I have also had some paintings reproduced as larger prints. Nowadays, I work mostly in pen and ink, doing small drawings. However, I belong to the Seaford Art Club, where we are encouraged to work with many different media.'

the Chapel, and I went to school there, as did my grandfather, **Gerard Gamble (31)**, my dad, **Andrew Gamble (68)**, my brothers, **Ed Gamble (95)**, **Patch Gamble (98)**, and **James Fagence-Browne (07)**, and many of my cousins. I worked for the Ratcliffian Association for three years, and my brother, Patch, is buried in the small cemetery on the grounds. Now my little Charlie Bear has started in Year 5, and he is loving it. I'm enjoying being a new parent, and I'm looking forward to coming back to the school again.'



**Andrew Coker (78)** and his wife, Emma, have had a busy year, with their two children, Harriet and James, both getting married. Sadly, this year also saw the death of Josephine Della-Porta, mother of Andrew, **Tim (73)**, and **Julian (81)**. She was 91 and is buried in the school cemetery with their father, **Pat (44)**, and close to her second husband, **Clifford (43)**.

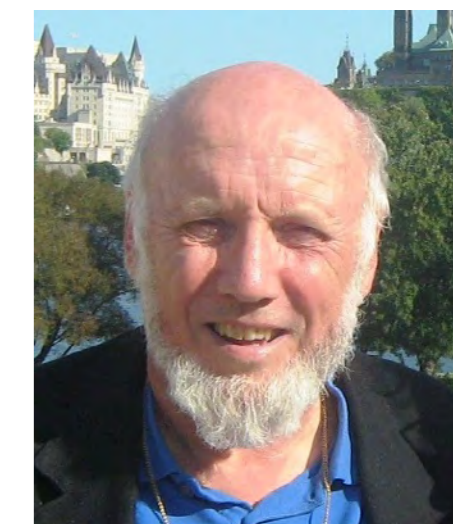
**Alexandra Slack (née Gamble) (03)**: 'This has been a big year for me, as my son, Charlie, started at Ratcliffe in the Prep School in September. This photo makes me so happy, and it's a day that I'll remember forever. Why does Ratcliffe mean so much to me? Because I was baptised there, and so were both my children. I was married to the amazing Tim Slack in

**Alison Court (née Mason) (98)** and friends from the Class of '98 met up for dinner in October, with some celebrating 39 years of friendship. Alison said: 'Unfortunately, due to illness and other family and work commitments, three members of our group were unable to attend. We have all stayed in close contact since leaving school and still enjoy sharing stories old and new. We made the best friends at Ratcliffe

and love our regular meet-ups.' Pictured, below, from left to right, are **Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98)**, **Maxine Laurie (née Creighton) (97)**, Alison, **Georgina Spencer (née Brittain) (98)**, and **Ginny Gamble (98)**.



**Ian Potts (62)**: 'I don't know if it is of any interest, but, at the moment, I can claim to have taught the Foreign Secretary. James Cleverly took a BA in Hospitality Management at what was then Thames Valley University (now the University of West London), and I taught Financial Management. I was obviously impressive (possibly, I had made known my Conservative background), as, when he became a GLA councillor, he told me that I had taught him.'



**James Belderbos (89)** has now taken his specialist family law firm, Belderbos Solicitors, into its third year. Since opening its doors in June 2020, he has welcomed another solicitor, a mediator, his trainee qualified in October, and together with administrative staff, he has built a strong team. James helps individuals through separation, and couples in mediation. He says that it's extremely rewarding work helping families in difficulty, finding innovative ways to achieve resolution, and avoiding court proceedings wherever possible.

**John Larrad (60):** 'I am now in my 62nd year as a PGA Golf Pro, and four years ago, I was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Austrian PGA, which, I believe, is the highest award for a PGA Pro. It was a complete surprise, and totally unexpected. I think, in my time, Ratcliffe was the first school to offer golf lessons in the UK. My friends and I put our names down, not really to do golf, but to get out of a French class which was at the same time, because the Pro, Freddy George, could only come at that time! I began playing golf at Ratcliffe in 1959, and in 1960, my handicap was one. I should have been an engineer, eventually taking over my father's company, but instead, I asked him if I could be a golf professional. After he picked himself up off the floor, thinking of all the school fees he'd paid, he said that I could try it for one year, and if it went well, I could carry on. It did, and here I am today. It's funny, as my first job as Assistant Pro was in Birstall with Freddy George.' John is pictured, below, swinging off the first tee in an exhibition match with Ryder Cup players Neil Coles, Harry Weetman, and Max Faulkner in Reading.

**Keelan Kukk (10):** 'It's been a bit of a rollercoaster year for me. At the start, I got a new job as an IT business partner, in the middle, I managed to see a band that I've wanted to see live since I was at school (reliving the early '00s), and towards the end, I'll hopefully be returning to Leicestershire, after spending almost 10 years being a bit more "southern" (or rather, closer to the Watford Gap, in Luton and, subsequently, Milton Keynes). Probably, like a lot of my year group entering their 30s, there's a bit of conflict between grown-up life and not trying to be too old - age is just a number, after all! The pandemic was a wake-up call that life is far too short, and we must try to appreciate the here and now, as we never know what's around the corner. The best motto that I stick to is to always treat others how you want to be treated - thinking back to my school days, this bears quite a close resemblance to our school motto, "Legis Plenitudo Caritas". I hope everyone is doing well, and making their own path in the wild ride that is our limited time here on Earth together!'



**David Beeby (70):** 'Having lived and worked in Cumbria since 1987, I was honoured to be approached to become High Sheriff of Cumbria. This is an appointment by the Queen and is for one year. The "Shire Reeve" has been appointed as the principal servant in the county by the monarch since Anglo-Saxon times. Historically responsible for law and order, and the collection of Crown rents, taxes, and fines, the High Sheriff's duties used to include raising "hue and cry" in pursuit of keeping the peace, and "reading the riot act" in cases of insurrection against the Crown. Today, the role is an independent, non-political, and unremunerated appointment which, given the history of the role, supports the Royal Family, the Judiciary, the Police, and the Emergency Services. For me, the key part of the role was to actively encourage and promote the many amazing organisations and people in the third/voluntary sector across the county. In essence, as "Preserver of the Peace" and "Guardian of the Shire", the role is to uphold and enhance this ancient office whilst making a meaningful contribution to the county and the people of Cumbria.'

**Rishi Soni (13):** 'After leaving Ratcliffe nearly 10 years ago, I went on to study Medicine. I was able to travel to various countries, including Grenada, Tanzania, Zanzibar, India, Hungary, and Austria during my studies. When I finished my degree, I moved to Switzerland, where I have started my specialisation in Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery. I am involved in a wide spectrum of surgeries, from joint replacements, arthroscopic interventions, and fracture repairs, to spinal surgery. Switzerland has a lot to offer, with its lakes, fantastic ski culture, and hikes - opportunities that I am definitely taking advantage of!'

**Katy Watson (15):** 'My journey after Ratcliffe started with a degree in Fashion Business and Promotion, and I kept to my plan of heading to London after graduating. I started out as a styling assistant, working on shoots for magazines and brands. I then joined the womenswear brand RIXO as a PR assistant and, later, as a communications executive. Whilst working at RIXO, I shared a dream with a friend and colleague of mine about running our own company; shortly afterwards, we left our jobs, worked hard during the pandemic, and launched Prochaine in June 2021. We both shared a common frustration at the frequent misuse of the term "sustainability" as a marketing tool. Instead, we see sustainability as a goal to work towards together. Prochaine helps by offering curated edits of brands doing amazing things for the environment, thereby encouraging a more responsible lifestyle in us all. In July 2022, we opened our first pop-up shop on King's Road in London, which was a huge milestone for us. There for one month, we loved meeting our customers face to face, and it was a very surreal moment seeing our sign above the shop every day. We have another pop-up arranged for December, and many more planned around London next year. It's been an exciting time so far. Working for yourself means doing everything all at once, which is a challenge, but it's one that I am loving. A really enjoyable part of the job is curating our collections and then creating shoots for each season, my favourite being one with fellow Old Ratcliffians **Alex Butler (15)** and **Gianluca Misso (15)**, who were the photographers. I've been lucky enough to work on many amazing shoots since university, but none beat those for your own company. Here's to many more.'



**Dick Cunningham (59)** celebrated his 80th birthday in February with family and friends at The Bricklayers Arms in Chipstead. Those attending the occasion included



**Kenneth Chau (92):** 'I'm currently still living in Hong Kong, with plans to move elsewhere in two to three years' time. Please send my best regards to my class peers, as I haven't been in touch with most of them in decades.'



**Kristian Brocksopp (21):** 'I'm now working as an apprentice broadcast engineer at the BBC. It's so amazing, meeting all the people that I've seen on TV or listened to on the radio, sharing a lift with Huw Edwards, and getting to "play" with the equipment in the studios. On my first day, I was taken up to the "nerve centre" of technical operations for Broadcasting House in London, where all of the BBC radios, plus the *BBC News*, *World News*, and 29 language news channels, were monitored and controlled in one place. Everyone is so supportive, allowing me to go out and learn by myself, rather than following someone around all day long.' Kristian is pictured, above, with *BBC News* and *BBC World News* presenter Lukwesa Burak.

fellow octogenarian Old Ratcliffians **John Cunningham (54)**, **Peter Casartelli (56)**, **Nigel Jewell (58)**, **Jonty Myles (57)**, and **Mike Waldron (58)**.

On May 11th, **Paul Gunter (84)** was elected as the eleventh Abbot of Douai, a monastery of English monks founded in Paris in 1615, which moved to Douai after the French Revolution, and then finally to England in 1903. He is now responsible for the running of the monastery, and for the seven parishes that are part of the monastery's mission. He is responsible for the welfare and work of all 20 other monks of the community. He succeeds Abbot Geoffrey Scott, who has now retired after three full terms in office, lasting 24 years. (In the English Benedictine Congregation, of which Douai Abbey is part, abbots are elected for eight-year terms, but they may be re-elected as many times as the community sees fit.) Abbot Paul will continue to serve the English and Welsh Bishops' Conference, leading their Liturgy Department. The Abbatial Blessing of The Right Reverend Paul Gunter OSB by The Right Reverend Philip Egan, Bishop of Portsmouth, took place on September 8th at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel.



Credit: Marcin Mazur

**Richard Wallace (79)** has been appointed as Head of TV at News UK Broadcasting, where he's been charged with revamping the start-up TalkTV news-and-views channel and growing the Murdoch organisation's UK television interests. He has spent the past 10 years working in American TV in Los Angeles, latterly as Senior Vice President at Syco Entertainment, Simon Cowell's holding company. Wallace was previously the editor of the *Daily Mirror*.



**Anthony and Yetta Hobkinson (née Van Heesewijk) (79):** 'It seems like yesterday that we met for the first time at Ratcliffe in September 1977. We are now happily married, with three grown-up children (Thomas, Emma, and Matthew - pictured together, above), and we have lived in Godalming since 1995. Yetta is working as a volunteer home visitor with a local hospice. Anthony is working part-time as a mediator, but most of his time is spent running a second-hand vinyl charity, Make A Difference with Records, in Godalming. They partner with a Surrey-based mental health charity, Catalyst. They rely on donations, so if anyone has any vinyl to donate, please get in touch at [vinylforcharity@gmail.com](mailto:vinylforcharity@gmail.com).'



**Philip Jones (59):** 'It seems a world away since I left Ratcliffe nearly 64 years ago, and I have had the great pleasure of keeping in touch, over the years, with several of my friends and contemporaries. This past year has seen a number joining the "Octogenarian Club". Last September,

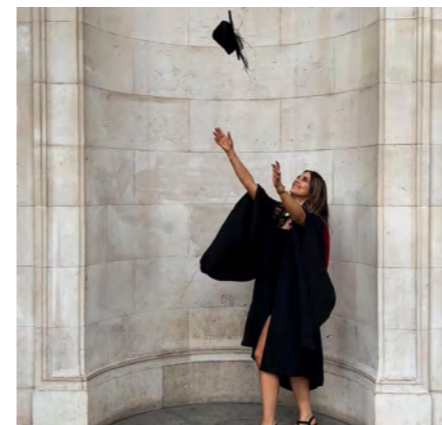
**Helena Green (née Lynch) (00)** and several members of the Class of 2000 met up this year. Their first reunion was at **Ali Richardson's (00)** 40th birthday, which took place in August. They also got together again when **Chay Creighton (00)** was back over in England from his

home in Ireland. The friends all went out for dinner. Pictured, below, are **Chantelle Creighton (19)**, Chay Creighton, Ali Richardson and his wife, Jess, **Bob De Rienzo (00)**, **Pat Lynch (00)**, **Scott Piecha (00)**, **Saroj Ekanayake (00)**, Helena Green, and **Iain Laurie (99)**.



I had the honour to propose the health of **Paul Rudd (60)** at his birthday celebration in Stamford, where I saw his three sons, **James (87)**, **Adam (88)**, and **Jacob (90)**, again, as well as other ORs, including **Anthony Meredith (57)**, **David Tobin (60)**, and **Simon Giles (60)**, along with Kay and **Tony Holland (56)**, Claire and **John McVeigh (59)**, Teresa and **Richard Gamble (64)**, and Ann and **John Lavin (55)**. In mid-September, I joined Patricia and **Peter Deeley (59)** and their family and friends for a delightful luncheon in celebration of Peter's 80th (our birthdays are only one day apart, so we never forget them!). Also in attendance were David Tobin and Simon Giles, together with Jackie and **Ken Hurley (59)**, and Chris and **Andrew Clarke (59)**. My own birthday celebration was a dinner at The Athenaeum with my sons and daughters-in-law, together with old friends, including Peter Deeley, Paul Rudd, **Brian Coe (60)**, Tony Holland, and John McVeigh. Sadly, on health grounds, my friend of over 70 years, **Brendan Donnison (61)** was unable to come, as were David Tobin and Simon Giles.'

**John McGlashan (71):** 'I am currently busy volunteering for a number of non-governmental organisations in South Africa, where I have been since 2005. I raise funds for children in the area, which is about an hour or so away from Cape Town. The pandemic allowed me the time to write a memoir called *Next Time, Bring a Bigger Knife*, which has recently been published. There is a chapter on Ratcliffe, and another on Oxford, before my life becomes a little dark, as I avoid baseball bats, guns, and knives at night while addressing judges in court during the day. I won't give any more away, but the book has been well received and has been described as "an engaging, highly entertaining, and often funny memoir". Last October, I was delighted to travel to the UK to meet many of my year at a delayed 50-year reunion at the school, organised by **William Hurrell (71)**, **Richard Armitage (71)**, and **Charles Dewhurst (71)**. It was a spectacular success, and the school looked after the group brilliantly. I am in touch with **Bishop John Arnold (71)**, **John Heaps (71)**, William Hurrell, **Mark Gamble (71)**, Charles Dewhurst, **Andrew Pepper (71)**, Richard Armitage, **Alan Shepherd (71)**, and **Peter Fraser (71)**, amongst others, who regularly appear on a monthly Zoom meeting. Charles kindly organises these meetings, often on a Friday evening, where 45 minutes goes as quickly as it did all those years ago at school.'



**Alexandra Offer (18):** 'I have recently graduated from Cardiff University, having completed my MA in Digital Documentaries. I also completed my undergraduate degree in Journalism, Media, and Culture in Cardiff. I loved every minute of it; however, I have recently moved to Leeds for a change. I am now working as a business consultant specialising in cosmeceuticals and aesthetics!'



**Richard Palmer (83)** completed the Land's End to John O'Groats cycling challenge in August, in aid of Headway and the Lee Hancock Charity. The event was supported by Sportive HQ, which organises a number of cycling events. Richard said: 'We met in Pontefract in Yorkshire and loaded the bikes into one of two vans. There were nine other people cycling with me, and I was cycling with my friend, Martin Westall, from Thurmaston. We travelled to Land's End in the vans and stayed overnight at Camborne, ready to start on Monday 15th August. There were some very experienced and talented cyclists in the group, so turning up and meeting everyone was quite daunting. I had only really started cycling properly in February 2022, so I was feeling quite nervous. I really need not have worried, though, as everyone was very welcoming.' The 12-day challenge covered

1,000 miles of cycling. Richard added: 'I still can't quite believe we made it - it was overwhelming and, I don't mind saying, very emotional. Life goal achieved. I would like to thank all those who have donated to the Lee Hancock Charity for crucial scientific research, and to Leicestershire and Rutland Headway (where I work as the treasurer on a part-time voluntary basis), which performs vital work for people with brain injuries. Also, I'm very grateful for the kind words of support that helped me during the darker moments of the challenge. Luckily, there were only a few of those moments, as the support from people at home, the great bunch of guys with us on the event, and from the Sportive HQ team (Paul and Gareth) was incredible!' Richard's JustGiving page is currently open, should anyone wish to read more about his cycling challenge or make a donation.

**Andrew Yell (82)**, on a trip to Florence with his wife, Lizzie, took the opportunity to meet up with ORs who were at Ratcliffe at the same time as him and lived in that area. **Jackie Bolli (83)** lives outside Florence in the Tuscan countryside, and they met at the winery that her family used to own. They had also hoped to meet up with **Alessandro Del Giudice (81)**, who had been in the Italian Air Force before becoming a commercial airline pilot. Andrew and Alessandro had spent a couple of years in the tennis team together at Ratcliffe, but sadly, he was out of town during Andrew's visit, so there was no chance to reflect on those many victories!



**Matt Rowlett (92):** 'Liam Cradden (88) and I really enjoyed taking part in this year's CCF annual charity fundraiser for the Royal British Legion at Ratcliffe. Liam is currently a serving Regimental Colonel in the Parachute Regiment. Both of us were senior cadets in the CCF in our respective final years at the school. He said to me that taking part in the event was the least he could do, after what the CCF had done for him, forging his path into the armed services. His earlier career in the Parachute

Regiment led to him being awarded an MBE for his actions in Operation Barras (Sierra Leone, 2000). During the charity event, Liam's epic stints on the treadmill and exercise bike must be mentioned. He beat me! I have to say that Lieutenant Mark Edwards, who led the fundraiser, is a credit to Ratcliffe and its staff. His, and his wife's, commitment to the event, along with all those taking part, went above and beyond. Amazing effort. When we arrived, just before 9am on Saturday morning, there was a young girl (student) who was just finishing a six-hour stretch on an exercise bike, with her arm in plaster, who had put some serious miles in! She then went on to complete a Duke of Edinburgh's Award activity afterwards. I saw her again at around 1pm on Sunday, all smiles; she made Liam and I so proud of our school spirit. On a personal note, Liam and I hadn't seen each other for 34 years. There are a lot of reunions every year, in one form or another, at Ratcliffe, but this one was very special, as Liam was not only a school mate, but also a family friend back in the day. We walked around the school in our one-hour breaks, sharing stories of our memories and antics.'

The Ratcliffian Association is extremely proud to announce that **James Rudd (87)** has been appointed Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Cambridge. He now becomes Professor James Rudd PhD, FRCP, FESC. This news was shared by his proud father, OR and Foundation governor **Paul Rudd (60)**. Headmaster Jon Reddin offered 'heartfelt congratulations' to James, on behalf of his alma mater, for this 'fantastic achievement'. James has also been invited back to the College, when time allows, to share with the current students his pathway since leaving Ratcliffe - a talk that will very much inspire. The appointment was announced in full in the *Cambridge University Reporter*, dated June 15th 2022. Pictured, below, from left to right, are Paul Rudd, James Rudd, **Fr Simon Giles (60)**, **Fr David Tobin (60)**, **Adam Rudd (88)**, and James' mother, Valda Rudd.





**John Firmin (58):** 'The photograph above, was taken last December, during an impromptu lunch at the Victory Services Club in Marble Arch, London. Pictured, left to right, are myself, **John Hearson (58)**, **Howard Clipperton (60)**, and **Brian Coe (60)**. It was the first time that I had met any of them since leaving Ratcliffe in 1958. Prior to that, we had all been at Grace Dieu, so there was much tale-swapping. It was **Ian Gill (63)**,

who had been in touch by email with us separately, that prompted me to contact John and Howard. I live in Dartmouth, South Devon, and was planning a trip to London in December last year, so I suggested to them that we meet up for lunch. John recommended the Victory Services Club, as he was a member there, and he also said that Brian might like to attend, too. The photo is a result of that meet-up.'

**Jim Holborn (82):** 'At present, I am supervising a team of saturation divers working at 180-metre water depth. They are underneath an oil rig somewhere in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea, on board a vessel called the *Deep Discoverer!*'



**Amy Shaw (née Lang) (10):** 'It has been a super busy 18 months for me! Life is not linear, but sometimes, the wonky timeline can result in wonderful things. After I left Ratcliffe, I didn't go on to study, but in 2018, at the age of 27, I enrolled in a university course (full-time alongside work) to reach the goal of wearing a square hat! In my last year, I was so excited to find out that I was pregnant, and we welcomed our first daughter, Olivia Edie Shaw, into the world six weeks early, on March 16th 2021. She was four months old when I



Photo: Amy Shaw

**John Hobday (56):** 'I live in a beautiful part of New Jersey on the Delaware River, about 40 minutes from Princeton. My wife, Judy, and I live in an old house, built in the very early 1800s. She's a very talented designer and gardener who has made this a special home for us. On the property is another old stone building, built in 1610. It's registered as one of the first residential homes erected in New Jersey. The house was featured in the *New York Times* in their "On Location" series (April 17th 2014). We also have a Russell Terrier named Finnegan who takes me on a four-and-a-half mile walk five times a week! I enjoy reading about the alumni from the mid-1950s era. As their names pop up, days of glory, playing rugby (unbeaten in '56!), cricket, athletics, and field hockey, bring back wonderful memories. I hope this finds my contemporaries in good order, shape, and health.'

**Richard Rigby (84):** 'James Poskitt (84), Andrew Black (84), Eamon O'Donovan (84), Robert Skelly (84), Paul Harlow (84) and I met in Dover in September, and we cycled for a week around the battlefields and memorials of Northern France and Belgium. Respects were paid to some family members, and one or two strong Belgian beers were drunk in their honour. We carried light panniers and travelled 50 miles each day on back lanes, cycle tracks, and some Flanders mud. A few of us have done something similar in the UK over the last few years, and we will try to plan something special for our 40th anniversary in 2024.'



Photo: Richard Rigby



**Charles Lovatt (73):** 'I retired in February 2021, after 10 years of lecturing at the University of St Andrews, where I taught Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity. Prior to that, in the 1980s, I set up a semiconductor distributor; the business grew, and I shuttled between offices in Scotland, France, the USA, and Ireland. I'm now living in Scotland and looking forward to being able to travel again, visiting family down under.'



I get to see how our research is helping people living with dementia. The role suits me well; a typical day involves publishing blogs on the charity website, working with the press, and creating videos explaining the science behind our research. I also help at events, and I even got to meet Olympic gold medallist Imran Sherwani at an England Hockey game! We're quite a sporty bunch at work; my colleagues have run half-marathons in aid of our charity, and I ran 20 miles in the Endure24 running challenge in Reading this year. My teammates and I ran around the clock, covering a total distance of 100 miles, all in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK. Cambridge is a beautiful city, too. I especially enjoy cycling (sometimes rollerblading!) along the river and wandering through the maze of colleges. I'm still finding hidden treasures around the city, even though I've lived here for over a year! If you're ever in town, I highly recommend the Botanic Garden and the Limoncello café on Mill Road.'

**Gemma Lord (02):** 'For the second year running, I've been working with the Trent Women's Rockets through the Hundred Competition as their sports therapist.'



**Clem Maginniss (74):** 'My last day of military service was March 31st 2022. I joined Ratcliffe's Combined Cadet Force in 1970, and I had the privilege of serving in the Queen's uniform for nearly 52 years, in the CCF, the Regular Army, Territorial Army, Army Reserve, Voluntary Ex-Regular Reserve, and the Army Cadet Force. It has been a fascinating and challenging journey, with amazing people, through varied lands, and across the world's oceans, undertaking so many different tasks. For his role in commencing my military voyage, I must thank Bill Robinson, CCF Contingent Commander of the day, for his inspirational leadership, without which I would have taken a very different path.'

**Paul Morris (74)** retired from Allied Irish Bank Corporate Banking in December, and he is living in Solihull, Birmingham. His brother, **Sean Morris (70)**, has retired from HSBC Corporate Banking, and is now enjoying his retirement in Mirfield, Yorkshire. **Michael Morris (68)** lives in Vancouver and is still a practising doctor. Sadly, their brother, **Brendan Morris (56)** passed away a couple of years ago in Canada, where he had lived since 1964.

**Robert Ippaso (73):** 'I've finally retired (it seems like only yesterday that I began my studies at Ratcliffe), and, among other things, I've founded a Game Fishing Club in beautiful Naples, Florida - my home of several years. The verse below, created by me, summarises the sport, which is 99% catch and release, and it may entertain the readership. And, yes, several ladies have joined, as it's not simply a "guy" sport; it's also super social and conservation-based!'

**Game Fishing in Florida**

An art or a sport  
Some whisper a 'crazy obsession',  
And like golf, where age won't cut short  
At least our pastime won't lead  
to depression.

A hook and a line  
Much patience, sun balms,  
No rush when your world is sublime  
With glistening waters and a horizon  
of wavering palms.

They ask what we do  
Long hours surveying the sea,  
So little they know, for amidst all  
that blue  
Lies the quest that only we see.

That adrenaline rush  
A shout or a curse, the rod  
twitching possessed,  
Tranquility broken, no semblance  
of hush  
All steely resolve now hard pressed

Arms aching, back breaking  
Reel screaming, the line pulling so deep,  
Fish gaining, strength failing  
Maybe this task is too steep.

We win some, we lose some  
The joy's in the chase, not the catch,  
No matter the outcome, no  
semblance of glum  
And for this feeling, there's simply  
no match.



**Dan Amies (10):** 'Still in the Army, I am coming up to my 12-year point. I have completed a Master's degree in Geospatial Intelligence and have begun my second MSc in Information Capability Management. Along with my military geography specialism (which I first used during the pandemic, working in Skipton House in London, advising the NHS on where to site the Nightingale hospitals), I have most recently spent two years as a Counter-Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Field Squadron Second-in-Command. I am also working towards Chartered Geographer status with the Royal Geographical Society. I'm also President of the Ratcliffian Association and have recently been

appointed as a governor at Ratcliffe. I was extremely happy to be given the opportunity to be a governor, and I am looking forward to applying my military command, leadership, and management to an educational setting, with education being closely related to what we would term training. Having bought a house together and recently getting engaged, my fiancée, Hannah, and I are looking forward to getting married in the autumn of 2024.'

**Sophie Riley (15):** 'Recently, a group of us met up in Buckinghamshire whilst visiting **Emily Hollis (15)**, who has now moved to a beautiful village in the countryside. We were joined by **Alex Beason (15)** and **Phoebe Allen (15)**, who are sharing a flat in London, as well as **Charlotte Perfect (15)**, who is also based in the capital. We are all



following very different career paths; Emily is working for Huel and has just taken on a new role looking after email marketing - if you sign up to Huel, watch out for an email from Emily! Charlotte has also just started a new job as a global pitch and proposals senior specialist at a US law firm. Phoebe moved to London last year and is currently working in two roles, as a senior executive for corporate partner relations, and as an executive for philanthropy campaign and donor relations at Cancer Research UK. Alex is taking the opera world by storm, balancing working as an opera singer with recording a CD, all whilst completing a Masters at the Royal Academy of Music. As for me, after a long time at university, I finally graduated over the summer and have just moved to Cornwall to start work as a doctor. I am currently spending my free time exploring the many beaches in the area!



## OLD RATCLIFFIANS RECEIVE GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

On Monday 16th May, 20 Old Ratcliffians were invited to Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. The award-winning ORs were: **Harry Brooks (18)**, **Grace Clark (19)**, **Matthew Lindley (19)**, **Alicia Boothroyd (19)**, **Alexandra Offer (18)**, **Elliot Fawdington (19)**, **Tom Cusack (18)**, **Tom Wetton (18)**, **Jacob Dawe (20)**, **Jake Kirkby (20)**, **Harry Ainscough (19)**, **George Linnett (20)**, **Harry Culpin (20)**, **Eduardo Robinson (20)**, **Savannah Fishel (15)**, **Walter Yell (13)**, **Alex Bown (20)**, **Robyn Warwick (20)**, **Luke Millett (20)**, and **James Howling (20)**.

Alex Bown spoke about the event: 'In May 2022, the Buckingham Palace Gardens welcomed a record-breaking 12,000 young people to celebrate their completion of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The celebrations were even more significant, with the event being the first to follow the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to the

passing of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 2021. A stunning walk from the top of Constitution Hill, down through the Gardens, led us to an assembly at the West Terrace, where the National Anthem and a welcoming speech from His Royal Highness, the Earl of Wessex, opened the proceedings. This was followed by an address from Felix Daglish, aged 20 - a Duke of Edinburgh's Award participant who reflected on his personal and social development from Bronze to Gold. Next, guest speaker and professional dancer Johannes Radebe spoke about his passion to pursue dance whilst facing racism and homophobia, relating to the audience his determination to never give up. Following these speeches, a group of Old Ratcliffians joined together to share current and future ambitions during the celebrations in West Central London.'

Catherine Cole, Head of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Ratcliffe

College, added: 'We are incredibly proud of these Old Ratcliffians who finished their Gold Awards a while ago, but were waiting to be invited to a Gold Award Presentation. They all had to dedicate so much time and effort to every section of their awards, and between them, they spent hundreds of hours volunteering in school or within the wider community. It was such a shame that not all 20 were able to go to Buckingham Palace to receive their certificates (important things, such as finals exams, got in the way), but I am so glad that those who went had a wonderful day out. For anybody who still has an award to complete, please do get in touch and let us help you - you have until just before your 25th birthday.'

Pictured, above, from left to right, are Jake Kirkby, Alex Bown, George Linnett, **Louis Massarella (19)**, Elliot Fawdington, Alexandra Offer, **Grace Lindop (19)**, Harry Ainscough, and Matthew Lindley.

## GEORGIA HOLT (16) WINS SILVER MEDAL IN HER FIRST COMMONWEALTH GAMES EVENT



Credit: SWPix

Old Ratcliffian **Georgia Holt (16)** and her partner, visually impaired para-cyclist Sophie Unwin, won a Commonwealth

silver medal in the Tandem B time trial at the Lee Valley VeloPark on Sunday 31st July. Georgia said: 'I had no expectations for my first international event. I just wanted to enjoy it and soak up the atmosphere of a home Commonwealth Games. Sophie and I only had a few training sessions together, as we were paired up just for the Games. Sophie is a Paralympic medallist and world champion in endurance events, whereas I am a sprinter, but luckily for me, the Commonwealth events are sprint only.'

The pair had faced disappointment only 48 hours earlier, as they were denied a bronze medal, despite finishing third, due to only four pairs cycling in their first event (under Games rules, only gold and silver medals are to be issued in such cases). However, this made winning their silver medal even

sweeter. Georgia said: 'To have come out of Friday's race with a controversial third place was tough, so we knew that we needed to reset ourselves, ready for Sunday's kilometre time trial.' She added: 'I have never been so nervous about a race, especially because my boyfriend and England teammate, cyclist Matt Rotherham, was racing either side of our time trial! To have the support of a home crowd throughout our race meant the world to us both, and to come home with a silver medal was the perfect ending to my first Commonwealth Games.'

Georgia is now training daily back at the Derby Velodrome, and she will be returning to Ratcliffe soon to share her story with the students and to show off her silver medal!

## JADE ENGLAND (20) IS TOP SCORER IN UK TETRATHLETE TEAM EVENT



The Ratcliffian Association was delighted to receive a visit from **Jade England (20)**, who was recently selected to be the vice-captain of the UK Girls' Tetrathlon Team, representing the UK at the Home International Competition in August. Tetrathlon is a competition comprising of four disciplines: shooting, swimming, riding, and running. Jade said: 'Being part

of this team and being involved in this competition is something that I've been working towards for three years now.'

Jade recalls how she was selected to trial for the international team whilst still studying at Ratcliffe in Year 13 (in 2020), but the competition was cancelled due to COVID. She added: 'Whilst at school, I was always updating members of the PE Department and Mr Gilchrist on my times at every hockey session!'

Jade was pleased to report that she was placed sixth individually in the international competition, and she had the best horse riding score out of all 108 competitors. The competition was held over two weekends, which also included a national competition, in which she came

fourth, and a regional competition, where she also came fourth.

In the national-level competition, a team event was held. Jade's team, consisting of Jade, her sister, Brooke, and Georgie Daynes, came second. She added: 'On the final weekend of the event, they put all of us into teams to compete against each other. My team placed first, and I was the highest-scoring member of the team. I was so happy.'

Ratcliffian Association Manager Amanda Mole said: 'It was great to meet Jade and hear all about her fantastic achievement, which she has clearly worked so hard for.' Jade presented the school with her UK Tetrathlon Team T-shirt, which will be displayed in the Sports corridor at Ratcliffe.

## ROTARY CLUB TRANSCENDS BORDERS



Old Ratcliffian **Patrick Farrelly (68)** wrote about his involvement with the Rotary Club and their recent trip to Ukraine to help with humanitarian aid.

'It all started with a phone call from a friend, an ex-Army chairman of our local branch of the Royal British Legion, Richard, asking if I was interested in going to Ukraine. I said, "Yes", my wife said, "No". In the event, we decided that we should try to raise material donations from our community and take them to Hungary, a country taking refugees, but receiving little attention from the media. Our local funeral director, Roger, joined the team and used our Rotary connections to establish a link to a destination in Hungary.

'Our local church, St Brannock's, offered the use of its minibus, and a long-wheelbase Transit van was offered by Steven Bearman, a local plumber's merchant and deacon of the Catholic church in Ilfracombe, along with his son-in-law, Jay, an ex-Fleet Air Arm firefighter. Local agricultural suppliers, Mole Valley Farmers, funded the hire of another van, driven by Richard's brother, Troll, and a friend, Steve.

'An exchange of emails with the District Governor of Rotary in Eastern Hungary connected us to the Rotary Club in Kiszvárd, a small town lying some 12 miles from the border with Ukraine. This club was already heavily involved in collecting aid and sending it across the border to the Rotary Club of Uzhhorod, a similar distance into Ukraine. Further emails with Palma Raganyne, an English-speaking club member, elicited the kind of supplies that were required.

'Thus, we set up a Facebook page, "Ukraine Braunton Community Response", and produced posters, which were distributed across the village, detailing the requirements. The response was overwhelming. The local Tesco store was

stripped of nappies, baby food, and ladies' hygiene items; members of the community bombarded us with donations, both physical and monetary.

'Our aims were to deliver the equipment donated by the community; to purchase any other items needed to support the refugees; and to help, if we could, with moving refugees or aid, but without being a burden on our Rotary hosts or the refugee administrative organisation.

'With the travel documentation sorted out, COVID tests registered, and an estimated arrival time notified to Kiszvárd, the convoy set off. After 33 hours and 1,500 miles, we arrived in Kiszvárd at 7pm to a reception group of Rotarians waiting to unload the hire van, which had to return to the UK the following morning. Accommodation had been arranged for us in a nearby hotel.

'The next day, some 20 Rotarians, students, and helpers were on hand to empty the remaining two vehicles. For those of you familiar with the Navy practice of loading ships by forming a human chain, this is what we did to pass packets of nappies, boxes, and other items into the warehouse. We then set about loading pallets, finally producing 19 in total, which were scheduled to be taken across the border the following week. Our first aim had been completed, delivering some six tonnes of aid.

'That evening, we were all invited to the Rotary Club meeting. This was an evening speaker event, with a group of teenagers reporting on a leadership course they had attended which had been sponsored by the club. One of the teenagers was a 15-year-old boy from Ukraine, studying in Kiszvárd and now unable to return to his parents, who were still in Ukraine. He spoke perfect English and related to us his feelings; a humbling encounter.

'We set about part two of our aim the following morning, being taken to the

local Tesco by our Rotarian liaison to use the monetary donations to purchase large quantities of dried and non-perishable food which was added to the pallets.

'Our third aim was more difficult to achieve. Volunteer organisations and charities were already well established at the rail border crossing at Záhony, and it was clear that we would only be a hindrance. We were, though, able to purchase some badly needed foodstuffs for the refugees' canteen. It was in there that the impact that the war was having on the young was brought sharply into focus. On the wall of the children's play area were a number of drawings, many depicting tanks and soldiers with weapons. One, in particular, stood out: a plain piece of paper with the words "No Putin, No Cry"; no child should feel the need to express that.

'A move to another border crossing at Beregsurány proved more beneficial, and the minibus was put to use for the next two days, carrying refugees to destinations inside Hungary. At this stage, I and the van departed for home, as there was no more good that could be done with the van, leaving Rotarian Roger and Richard.



Roger had been invited to attend a District conference over the weekend, where he was asked to address the attendees, explaining the background to our expedition. It was very well received and applauded when the reason for choosing Hungary was explained. Further movement of refugees took place, before both Roger and Richard returned to the UK.

'Without a doubt, none of this could have been achieved so successfully without the Rotary link across three countries. A finer exemplar of how Rotary transcends borders could not be found.'

## CLASS OF 1998'S BREATHTAKING HELICOPTER RIDE



Old Ratcliffians took to the skies of Leicestershire in early November, as they were treated to a helicopter ride and lunch at Hambleton Hall - an auction prize won by **Charlotte Hull (née Berry) (98)** and **Rob Hull (98)** at Ratcliffe's Summer Ball in July. The helicopter trip was very generously donated by pilot and parent Dan Hagan, and the Hambleton voucher was donated by the school as part of the prize. The close friends who enjoyed the trip were Charlotte and her sister, Lucy Hall, **Alison Court (née Mason) (98)**, and **Ginny Gamble (98)**. They were joined for lunch by **Giuliana Bird (née De Rienzo) (98)** and **Maxine Laurie (née Creighton) (97)**.

Alison said: 'It was the most amazing day. All week, the forecast was for rain and wind, but the Friday (our flight day) was clear. We couldn't have asked for better weather; the sunshine and clear blue skies allowed us to see for miles. We were able to fly over several local landmarks, our homes, and Ratcliffe College, which made it so special for us.

'After a delicious lunch and a quick change, we flew off, watching the sun set on our way to Birmingham to see Leicester band Kasabian playing at the Utilita Arena - a very rock-and-roll way to end the day! We would certainly recommend the experience to anyone in the future; Dan is a great pilot, and seeing the local area from the sky was phenomenal. We are so grateful to Rob and Charlotte for sharing this incredible day with us.' Charlotte added:

'I was lucky enough to share the day with my oldest friends, whom I've known since we were three years old! It was such an utterly unforgettable day, and we were blessed with glorious weather. Dan was an incredible pilot. We're already planning our next girls' trip to Paris! The whole day was totally phenomenal.'

The group travelled in an AS355 helicopter at 120 knots (135 miles per hour) at a height of between 1,000 and 2,000 feet. Their pilot, Dan Hagan, said: 'After chatting to the ladies just before we lifted, we made a plan to fly over Ratcliffe College, and then over each of their homes. As part of that, we flew over Ratcliffe, Leicester City Football Club's Training Ground, Loughborough, Quorn, Mountsorrel, Rothley, Leicester city centre, Market Harborough, Gaddesby, Rutland Water, and then we went on to land in the grounds at Hambleton Hall. After their lunch, which was a prize donated by the school, we lifted to a site near Birmingham, where I dropped them off, and a car was waiting to take them to the city centre. We were so lucky with the weather - there were blue skies, light winds, good visibility, no clouds, and a beautiful sunset.'

The funds raised from Ratcliffe's Summer Ball, including that made from the auction and this helicopter trip, were put towards a new climbing and bouldering wall for the Prep School.



## RATCLIFFE REVISITED



Members of the Class of 1982 returned to Ratcliffe this summer, 40 years after leaving, to take part in the Reunion Weekend. They attended the 175th Anniversary Mass in the Chapel, then watched the Grand Match, before enjoying a tour of the school and a barbeque. Those in attendance were **Simon Grant (82)**, **Mark Loynton (82)**, **Fred Coombes (82)**, **Ian Stevens (82)**, **Jit Ng (82)**, **Paul Davenport (82)**, **Peter Waters (82)**, and **Karl Shatford (82)**.

During the Reunion Weekend, we were delighted to welcome back some of the Class of 2002, who enjoyed a tour of the school with their families. Pictured, below, are **Laura Wigley (née Fidler) (02)**, **Charlotte Franklin (née Jones) (02)**, **Annabelle Palmer (née Gibson) (02)**, **Lucy Roberts (02)**, and **Samantha Quemby (née Piecha) (02)**.





**Steve Clark (79), Pete Feeny (79), Chris Della Porta (79), and Aaron Playle (79)** visited Ratcliffe on Saturday 13th November 2021, taking a tour of the College and the Rosmini Centre, before meeting up with other members of their class at a mini-reunion in Leicester, organised by Steve.

The group arrived at the College and were delighted to see the Old Library, the Chapel, and the Ref. They reminisced about their time spent as boarders and enjoyed sharing tales of the mischief they got up to 42 years ago! Steve and Aaron's partners, Beq and Jasmine, also shared in the tour. The group then spent

some time in the Lockhart Garden; they were pleased to see this development, along with the Old Ratcliffian Bar and Fitness Suite.

Aaron, who had not been back to the College for many years, recalled how he and his fellow classmates would climb a particular tree near the running track to escape from the view of their housemaster, so the group walked to this area to try to identify the tree with his initials carved into it! They also visited the Rosmini Centre and met with **Fr Ted Mullen (60)**, who used to teach them, now aged 79; they were pleased to be able to see him in this very appropriate year for them all.



Garden. This space had obviously been significantly developed since their time as boarders, but it provided them with a super opportunity to spot their old bedroom window, also recalling where the Tuck Shop was, and the shoe shiner.

Newly appointed Ratcliffian Association Manager Amanda Mole was delighted to take the guests round for their tour, and she thoroughly enjoyed hearing about the College from years gone by. She said, 'Hearing how fondly the ORs talked about their school days was really encouraging to me, and it was a delight to spend this time with them, embedding in me how important my role in the Association is.' Brian, being the managing director of local company Swithland Spring Water, kindly donated two cases of spring water as a thank you to the Association.

On Saturday 11th June, we welcomed back four Old Ratcliffians for a tour of the school. **Brian Beeby (69)** arranged the tour to coincide with his brother visiting from Cumbria. He brought with him both brothers, **Geoff (64)** and **David (70)**, as well as his son, **David (03)** and granddaughter, Abigail.

They began their tour in the Old Library, a room that they had rarely seen inside, as, during their school days, it was the Staff Room. Moving through to the Chapel, they were pleased to see their uncle's name (Squadron Leader **John Riley (32)**) on the wall, and they paid tribute to his memory by sharing the story of when he was lost in action returning from a mission over Europe.

A visit to the Ref was followed by a sweeping tour of the school's new developments, including the Sixth Form building and the newly refurbished Old Ratcliffian Bar. During their tour, by a stroke of luck, the group were met by Headmaster Jon Reddin, who was on site for a cricket fixture. They were delighted to meet him, and they enjoyed a quick chat about the school's growth.

David was keen to show the Sports Hall to his young daughter, which reminded the older ORs, all former boarders, of their evenings enjoying Film Night. They also had fun finding themselves and their friends in the old school photographs, before finally taking five minutes to sit and enjoy the tranquillity of the Lockhart



Old Ratcliffian **Andres Sardi (65)** visited the College in August, as he had travelled over to England from his home in Bogota, Colombia, for business. He spent time at the College with Development Director **Andrew Yell (82)**, before heading over to Nottingham to visit the Castle.

**Eoin O'Donovan (85)** came to Ratcliffe on Tuesday 7th June with his family, while they were visiting the UK from their home in Singapore. He had not been back since an Old Ratcliffian reunion in 1987! The family visited the Old Library as the first stop on their tour, with Eoin recalling stories of his headmasters, Fr Fearon and **Fr Hurdidge (40)**, after seeing their portraits on the wall. With his twin children, Hugo and Nina, he and his wife, Tammy, were delighted to take in the surroundings of the College, as Eoin also recalled his time in the Chapel at Benediction and Sunday Mass. As a boarder, he talked about how his parents would visit from their home in Birmingham and take him and his friends out for Sunday lunch nearby, before dropping them back at school.

Eoin and his family then visited the Ref, where the children enjoyed spotting the mice that are carved into the tables and chairs (a signature style of the craftsman Robert 'Mouseman' Thompson), before all venturing into the Lockhart Garden. Eoin was impressed with the new garden and fountain, recalling his time playing football there, in what used to be the Square, as many ORs do. He commented on how much the facilities and the Ref had improved over the intervening years, but the atmosphere felt strangely familiar.

Eoin and his family stayed for lunch in the Ref, where he had the pleasure of meeting **Fr Ted Mullen (60)** and **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)**. He was delighted when they recalled stories of him playing the trumpet and spoke of his love of AC/DC! Development Director **Andrew Yell (82)** and Ratcliffian Association Manager Amanda Mole also joined them for lunch, where they discussed Old Ratcliffian events and international boarding. Eoin was very happy that he had decided to visit and show his family what his school looked like. Finally, he thanked Katherine Lang, Association Secretary, for being so helpful and for taking the time out to make the visit a really enjoyable experience.



It was a delight to welcome **Alex Alesbrook (99)** back to Ratcliffe in July for a tour. Whilst visiting his childhood home town for the weekend, he started to reminisce about his school days and wanted to share his memories with his young children, Stanley and George. Their tour of the school included a visit to the Old Library, which Alex had rarely been into as a child, and he was in awe of the space and what was behind the secret door! The next stop was the Chapel, where his boys were overcome by the size and wonder of the space. The timing of his visit, during the school holidays, was perfect, as he had the opportunity to show his boys his prized rugby shirt, which is framed and hung in the Sports Hall corridor. One of his proudest school moments was when he played rugby for England in the Under 16s/Under 18s between 1994 and 1999. He did admit to being sent off in one of the games, but either way, he did Ratcliffe proud. Alex is now Assistant Head of Operations at Amesbury School in Surrey.



**John Castell (59)** returned to Ratcliffe for this year's Reunion Weekend. He said: 'This was my first visit to Ratcliffe for a number of years. It was very different from the last time I was there, and enormously different from when I was a student. We were then all boarders, and all boys. I did not see many people from my year, but I was very pleased to meet with **Pat De Burca (60)** and **Dick Cunningham (59)** for a long chat. I also had a very agreeable barbecue lunch with some friendly young Old Ratcliffians. One charming couple actually met as students at the school!

'During my visit, I happened to meet **Simon Grant (82)**, who was a boarder during the period when Ratcliffe introduced day scholars and girl students. His thoughts were very interesting and provided a bridge from my period to the present time. We are now in regular email contact.

'I had hoped to meet **Ted Mullen (60)** and **David Tobin (59)**, whom I had met on previous visits, and also **Tom Deidun (62)**, but not this time, unfortunately. I last met Tom on a visit a few years after leaving Ratcliffe. I was walking down the corridor and I saw him coming towards me, but this time wearing a cassock! He said, "Hello, Cas. A certain cross-country at Oakham comes to mind!" My thoughts exactly! The race in question was with Oakham and Oundle, at Oakham, and the course was a real stinker! Tom and I ran together for the latter part and arrived near the finish at a barbed-wire fence. In true Ratcliffian fashion, we helped each other through this...and then raced for the line! Despite our individual best efforts, we crossed the line together in a dead heat! Although it was 64 years ago, I still feel this enduring bond, and I would love to meet Tom again.'



# REMEMBERING QUEEN ELIZABETH II

We invited Old Ratcliffians to share their memories of the late Queen Elizabeth II. Below are just some of their stories and personal recollections, in tribute to her long and dutiful reign. More of these OR recollections can be found on the Association website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk).

**Sir Anthony Holland (56):** 'My memory has faded after twenty-odd years, but my family and I found it a very moving experience when I received my accolade as a Knight Bachelor from Her Majesty. I found the experience both an interesting one and an extremely impressive event, held at Buckingham Palace. Her Majesty was fully aware of the complexity of what I, and the Commission that I chaired in Northern Ireland, were responsible for, and how difficult it must have been for me and, indeed, for its members who lived permanently in the province.'



**Jeremy Gee (71):** 'I was first fortunate enough to come into the presence of the Queen in July 1981, when attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace, just after my marriage and government service in Greece and the Eastern Mediterranean area, and again, at another party a little later. Her Majesty always made herself very approachable; she was so friendly, and she showed a genuine interest in all who met her.'

'I also had the privilege of being present at a number of ceremonies with the Queen when I was Director of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Europe. In particular, I remember her and Prince Philip chatting at a very interesting and relaxed reception in Ieper in November 1998. Earlier, in 1992, I was charged with organising the 75th Anniversary of the CWGC. I approached the Queen about using St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, as the venue for the main ceremony, and she personally and very graciously agreed to this request. Many memories were brought back when watching the Queen's recent interment in the vault in St George's Chapel. (I know, from personal experience, all the work required in the detailed rehearsals for these events, timed to the last minute, liaising with the Armed Forces and so many other organisations, which would possibly surprise some of those seeing everything proceed so smoothly on the day itself.)

'In 1996, to my considerable surprise and enormous pleasure, Her Majesty appointed me OBE, and I had yet another opportunity of visiting the palace and taking part in the associated ceremonial. A further really nice, personal touch was that, even after moving on to other public duties, I still received Christmas cards from the Royal Household.'

'Most of us aged 70 years or under will have known no other monarch. She was a truly great Sovereign Lady, and I was so very lucky to have met and served her. May she rest in peace.'

**David Sandeman (77):** 'The Queen visited Jersey, where I lived, in her Silver Jubilee year in 1977. I was humbled to be invited by the Island of Jersey to be presented to the Queen in one of the parks, and to be able to tell her a little bit about my solo voyage across the Atlantic. It was a real honour to meet her; she knew a great deal about sailing, and she asked me insightful questions, wanting to understand what it was like to sail for all that time as a young lad on my own. My memory of meeting Her Majesty and the Duke will stay with me for the rest of my life.'

**Simon Tyas (71):** 'I had the honour to swear allegiance and to serve Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II twice, once as PC126H in the Metropolitan Police in London, then in 1978, when awarded my Queen's Commission in the Royal Air Force, serving for 32 years.'

'I met Her Majesty in 1979, when I served as the security officer for the royal flight to Lusaka, Zambia, for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The RAF VC10 crew were all quite tense, because it was in the middle of the conflict in Rhodesia, but the Queen spoke to us with that warm smile and calmed us all.'

'The second time was in 2002, when Her Majesty was kind enough to award me the MBE, presenting it to me at Buckingham Palace. I was in the queue with a Wing Commander, Commanding Officer of a Jaguar Squadron that had taken part in the first Gulf War. He turned to me and said that he was more nervous now than he ever had been during the war - not very reassuring! However, once it was my turn for the presentation, I marched forward, turned left to face Her Majesty, and was met by that same, warm smile. My nerves melted away.'

'On the day of her funeral, my fellow members of the Armed Forces - Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force - carried out their essential duties faultlessly and with the highest professionalism. We were saying goodbye to our boss. May God grant peaceful rest to Her Majesty. God save the King!'



**Paul Holmes (74):** 'Using the occasion of a royal visit to Oxford in March 1976 to open the new Westgate shopping centre, the warden of New College invited the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh to a choral presentation at the Chapel there, and then to view the college gardens. News of this spread to us undergraduates in the neighbouring college, St Edmund Hall, maybe even by specific invitation: a healthy crowd of student well-wishers would doubtless make a good impression.'

'And so it was that I found myself joining the crowd in the Garden Quad of New College at 3 o'clock that afternoon. I had thought to bring my camera along, as clearly this would become a day to remember. After about half an hour, six trumpeters heralded the arrival of the Queen's Rolls-Royce, the silver statuette of St George and the dragon glinting on its Palladian grille. It parked in the middle of the Quad, and the Queen and the Duke were duly greeted by the warden. As Her Majesty made her way along the serried ranks of well-wishers, I seized my chance, sprang out of the crowd to take a frontal photograph, and then tried to regain my place.'

'But the Queen had noticed this, and now made a clear trajectory towards me. This development I was absolutely not prepared for. Making eye contact, she asked me if I were studying "here". This question unleashed in me a mental paroxysm, because I was not, in fact, an undergraduate of New College, rather of St Edmund Hall. After what seemed like an age, I managed to stutter that yes, I was studying at the university. This earned me a subsequent question as to whether I was enjoying it, and now, having found a modicum of confidence, I politely replied, "Yes, Ma'am". The memorable ordeal now over, the Queen turned to my neighbour, Chris, a student from Magdalen. I haven't recorded how his interview went, but in the aftermath, we both celebrated our luck with a pint of Hook Norton ale at The King's Arms. God save the King!'

**Peter Daley (56):** 'I was at Ratcliffe when George VI died. I remember seeing newsreels of the then future queen coming back from Treetops in Kenya. In those days, we watched a movie in the gym every Saturday night, along with a cartoon or a newsreel.'

'There was a big discussion in the papers about whether the Coronation should actually be televised. Television was a new thing, and extremely costly; most

people rented, because of the expense, from a company called Rediffusion. **Fr Leetham (1915)** installed one at great expense in the guest room adjacent to the Headmaster's Office. It was in a mahogany case about four feet tall, with a screen about as big as an iPad. On the day of the Coronation, we were broken into groups of eight or nine, and a prefect ushered us into the TV room. Each group got to watch for 10 minutes. Some groups got to see it twice that day, and others only once.'

'That day, as I remember it, the Boy Scouts, under Olly Orton of blessed memory, camped out on the field to the east of the main school building, and there was a cricket Grand Match (Old Boys vs students). That evening, there was a special banquet that consisted of a small piece of gristly beef, lots of potatoes, an unnameable vegetable, plus a glass of wine. As I remember, we were right at the end of rationing (left over from World War II), and food was hard to get!'

**Kristian Brocksopp (21):** 'Working at the BBC on the day of the death of Queen Elizabeth II was quite different for me than people might expect. Even though all of the journalists were busy working away and getting material ready, it was a much less stressful day for us engineers. We wanted to make sure that there were no problems while this very special broadcast went out, so we held off on projects and non-urgent work, to avoid accidentally causing any disruptions. It was incredible to see all the journalists working in conjunction and bringing such moving programmes together.'



## OLD RATCLIFFIANS: GIVING BACK TO THE SCHOOL

### JOHN PLUMB (53) RESURRECTS SCHOOL SONG FOR 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Old Ratcliffian **John Plumb (53)** is passionate about music, and he fondly remembers his years spent at the College singing the Ratcliffe School Song, 'Ad Multos Annos', and the Old Ratcliffian Song. He was saddened when he first learnt that the School Song was no longer sung by students at the College, and had been lost for decades. He then began a crusade to have it resurrected that went on for over 20 years, writing letters to various headmasters and musical directors at the school during that time.

At this year's 175th Anniversary Mass on Sunday 3rd July, John's incredible efforts finally came to fruition, when the School Choir sang his beloved School Song. Katy Donegan, Ratcliffe's Director of Music, said:

'This song, originally written in 1919 and later revised by John in 1953, had not been sung since his departure from Ratcliffe. To have him alongside many Old Ratcliffians in the congregation proved to be a very special moment, especially when they joined in with the singing! We remained true to the original song in the main, and it was fantastic to have the opportunity to sing it once more in the beautiful College Chapel. The students absolutely loved the fact that they were singing a song written by an Old Ratcliffian, and they thoroughly enjoyed bringing it back to life.'

John added: 'I was delighted to sing along at the end of the special Mass with the two verses of my resurrected School Song'. John also attended the celebratory

luncheon after the Mass, and he is pictured with his wife, Jean, wearing his plum-coloured OR blazer, which still fits him almost 70 years after it was made!



### SAM SPILLANE (91) IS APPOINTED CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

**Sam Spillane (née Murphy) (91)** was elected as chair of governors in September 2022. She has been a governor since 2019, and she shared her thoughts with us:

'Ratcliffe has been a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. As a child, I would attend OR functions with my father, **Bernard Murphy (67)**, who has also been a governor and trustee of the Cunningham Fund over the years. I was a student at Ratcliffe myself for two years, from 1989 to 1991, and during that time, I made some amazing friends that I remain close with some 30 or so years on. I am eternally grateful for my time at the school, which taught me so much about the importance

of community and relationships, both in and out of the classroom.

'My daughter, Emily, is now in her last year at Ratcliffe, having studied there since 2016, representing three generations at the school. Like me, Ratcliffe has nurtured and supported her throughout her journey, and she has become a kind, confident, and very driven young lady - although she will cringe to hear me say that!

'So, I have a lot to be grateful for, and I felt that it was now my turn to show my appreciation to Ratcliffe and to give something back. I have been a governor and also a trustee of the Ratcliffian

Association and Cunningham Fund for three years, and in September, the opportunity presented itself to take on the role of chair. It is a privilege and a pleasure to support Jon Reddin and the fantastic staff at the school as we enter the next chapter of Ratcliffe's journey.'

The College is delighted to appoint ORs to the governing board, including Sam Spillane as chair, **Simon Burns (83)** as vice-chair, and new governors **Simon Astill (85)** and **Dan Amies (10)**. Simon Burns said that he was 'privileged to be nominated and voted in as vice-chair of governors and to support Sam Spillane'. He, **Fr Philip Sainter (69)**, and **Paul Rudd (60)** are also Foundation governors.

## MARRIAGES



On Saturday 24th July 2021, **James Gisborn (07)** married Kelly Durston at All Saints Church, Long Whatton, followed by a reception at Long Whatton Gardens. **Ash Dey (07)**, **Anand Dey (07)**, **Chris Jee (07)**, **Christian Woolford (07)**, **David Gisborn (09)**, and **Oliver Johnson (07)** were amongst the guests who celebrated with them on their special day.

**John Baird (12)** married **Felicity Norris (12)** on Friday 24th September 2021 at St Bartholomew's Church in Quorn, followed by a wedding reception at Prestwold Hall. Felicity said: 'It was the most beautiful day, spent in the September sunshine with our friends and family. We were joined by lots of close friends from our time together at Ratcliffe. These included John's sister, **Helen Baird (14)**, who sang during the ceremony, **Charlie Nicholson (17)**, who was an usher, and **Sam Coulton (12)** and **Holly Allison (12)**, who gave the readings. After a few years spent living and working in London, we have moved back to Leicestershire and bought our first home together. John works in consulting, and I am continuing my paediatric training. We are loving being back in the Midlands and having a house and garden to start making our own.'





**Amy Lang (10)** became Mrs Shaw on April 1st 2022, when she married Ed Shaw in a small registry-office wedding. On July 9th, they were joined by their friends and family for the wedding celebration, held in the Walton Brook Vineyard, on the land behind what used to be Lang's restaurant in Burton on the Wolds.

**Sophie Kelly (née Yell) (10):** 'On New Year's Eve, **Gus (10)** and I finally got married, after many false starts, due to COVID! However, it was worth the wait, and we had the most magical day celebrating with friends and family in Leicestershire. Having met at Ratcliffe many years ago, and with both of our families being full of past pupils, there were too many ORs to list!'

**Victoria Roughley (née Jordan) (07):** 'I got married on August 6th 2022, after a two-year delay, due to COVID. My husband, Stephen, is originally from Stockport, but he's lived in Leicester for many years. We got married at the Town Hall in Leicester and had our reception at Abbey Sports and Leisure. We couldn't have asked for a better day, as the sun shone down on us. It was not a huge wedding - we just kept it to family and close friends, and I wouldn't change a bit of it. In October, we'll spend a week on our honeymoon at the Olympic Lagoon Resort in Agia Napa, Cyprus. We're both really looking forward to it.'



**Oliver Johnson (07)** married Molly Jackson on Saturday 2nd October 2021, at St Helen's Church in Ashby-de-la-Zouch, followed by a reception at The Riding School at Calke Abbey. In attendance were **Ash Dey (07), Anand Dey (07), Christian Woolford (07), James Gisborn (07), Joe Waldman (07), Nye Chapple (07), Jessica Sharpe (07), Beth Savage (07), and James Blake (04).**

**Walter Yell (13):** 'Rachel and I got married on June 19th 2022, at Thorpe Garden in Tamworth. Old Ratcliffian guests included **Andrew Yell (82), Sophie Yell (10), Gus Kelly (10), Laura Yell (11), Amy Clayfield (11), Killian Kirkpatrick (13)** (our best man), **Edd Rayns (13), George Hutchinson (13), William Watts (13), Frankie Hayes (13), and Dan Lewis (13).**'



On Saturday 10th July 2021, **Ash Dey (07)** married Aneesha Nirmalan at The Savoy in London. They were joined by Old Ratcliffians **Anand Dey (07), Chris Jee (07), Christian Woolford (07), James Gisborn (07), and Oliver Johnson (07).**

## RICHARD 'DICK' GALLIANO

AUGUST 8TH 1931 - OCTOBER 14TH 2021  
OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1943 - 1950

My father, Richard Galliano (known as Dick), was born on August 8th 1931 in Harrow, Middlesex, to **Ernest (13)** and Ethel. He had two siblings - an older sister, Diana, and a younger brother, **Mark (60)**, some 13 years his junior.

Dick was sent to Grace Dieu at the outbreak of the war and, later, to Ratcliffe, where both his father, Ernest, and grandfather, **Dominic (1883)**, had been educated before him. His school days left a profound impression on him, and like many Ratcliffians, he developed a strong faith and a deep devotion to Our Lady that stayed with him throughout his long life. 'Love Fulfils the Law' is the school motto, and whilst he would have been well aware of that, perhaps he was not aware of just how closely he lived by it.

Whilst Dick would never admit to being anything but an average student, his leadership qualities were recognised when, in his final year, he became Head Boy, and captain of both the 1st XV rugby and athletics teams.

After school, Dick joined the RAF for his National Service. He embraced the opportunity and, following basic training, was fortunate to be selected for flying training, when, as one of the 'lucky ones', he was posted to Canada. Having completed his National Service, Dick returned to England in the early '50s, where he was encouraged by his father to take a place at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, to read Economics and Law. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1956.

With time already spent in Canada, Dick migrated in 1956 to work as a technical writer in the Special Projects Group at A V Roe Canada. Renowned for its technical innovation, at that time, the company was involved with the development of the Avro Arrow (a fly-by-wire long-range interceptor), and the Avrocar (an early VTOL aircraft of flying-saucer design). It was a time in his life that he would enthuse about for the rest of his days.

Having persuaded her to join him in Canada, Dick was married to Vibeke, his Danish wife, at St Monica's Church in Toronto on January 4th 1958.

In 1961, Dick returned to the UK, where, for the next 10 years, he worked in advertising. In 1972, he was approached by an old university friend to join him in his recently formed property development business. It was an opportunity that Dick embraced fully: he would spend the next 19 years with CPK, latterly Merivale Moore, until his retirement in 1992.

In 1980, Dick settled in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, next to the Thames, with his wife, Vibeke, and his, by then, five children.

Never seeking the limelight, Dick was a self-effacing, uncomplicated man with a generosity of spirit who delighted in the company of family and friends. Often self-deprecating in his sense of humour, he had a lovely nature, coupled with a sense of fun, and a wonderful smile that put everyone at ease. He maintained close contact with a good many Old Ratcliffians over his lifetime, including **Hugh Moser (49)** and **Jack Edmonds (47)** (both of whom, along with their wives, became godparents to two of his children), and **Jim O'Donnell (50)**, **Tom Black (50)**, and **Leo Simmonds (49)**, who, together with Dick, had formed a record-breaking 110-yards relay team.

As well as a talent for sketching and writing, Dick had a keen interest in photography, having won prizes at school for his efforts. His artistic ability also extended to amateur dramatics, a taste for which had started at school and continued in his retirement, making several appearances for the Chiltern Shakespeare Company.

Sadly, a fall from a ladder shortly after his retirement in 1992 resulted in a badly broken ankle, severely restricting his mobility, and robbing him of his much-loved pursuits of skiing, walking, and cycling. After three hip replacements, ankle and back operations, latterly, he



suffered from a weak heart, for which he had a pacemaker fitted in the mid-2000s.

In 2020, during the COVID crisis, Dick spent a month in hospital with sepsis. We thank God that he came back from the brink, allowing us to enjoy his company for a little longer. Sadly, in late September 2021, he was, again, admitted to hospital, this time with kidney failure. Inoperable for a man of his age, after two weeks of truly wonderful care, he passed away peacefully on the morning of Thursday 14th October 2021.

During the days leading up to his death, we were all fortunate enough to say goodbye. Although not conscious, there is no doubt that, to his great joy and relief, he received the Last Rites the morning before his death, and he was well prepared to meet the Lord. His funeral was held in St Peter's Church, Marlow, on November 12th 2021.

Dick leaves Vibeke, his wife of 63 years, five children, Kristina, Clarissa, **David (80)**, Amanda, and Peter, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. He was a wonderful husband, father, and friend who will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

**David Galliano (80)**  
Son

## MIKOLA MAHIGA

MARCH 22ND 1975 - FEBRUARY 10TH 2022  
OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1991 - 1995



Mike came to Ratcliffe during my Third Year (now Year 9), at a time when the USA and Canada felt like a different world; suddenly, here was someone who sounded like the NBA stars that we were all getting to know as the Bulls took the world by storm. Although Mike was in the year above me, he should have been at least two years ahead, but due to a lack of English schooling and Ratcliffe being his 14th school, he was placed in the first

proper year of GCSEs - a case of his loss and our gain!

Mike took to playing rugby, where we were all struck by the realisation that someone had to tackle this guy, followed by the fear of him tackling us! We already had **Chima Nwoga (94)**, who was renowned for cutting you in half, and now this guy, who looked like he would snap you in two! We played some brilliant matches, made memories, and had a great time together in a team known as 'The Strollers', coached by Mr Gillmore, made up of those not interested in hitting a small ball around a muddy pitch.

Mike had an instant connection with my cousin, **Helen Murphy (92)**, a redheaded Irish girl, and before we knew it, he was part of our family gatherings. Mike loved being part of our extended family. It was something that he had missed out on during all his years of travelling; his own family comprised of a successful father who went on to work with President Bush, and a mother who was high up in the Red Cross, often limiting his time with them.

Mike became the older brother that I never had, guiding me away from many perils, and

introducing me to a few. He developed my skills as a getaway driver, popping in and out of school during the day, evening, and early hours - a missed vocation for us both as part of the Special Services! Mr Sharpe, you were right - it was me on the drive, and it was most definitely Mike diving over the fence from the farmer's field and into my car (Maccies, here we come!)! I would love to mention some more of our stories, but having two children currently at Ratcliffe, it's only fair that they are saved for another day, when my son, Tomas, can't attempt to replicate them!

Mike and I stayed in regular contact with each other, speaking regularly on the phone while he was at university in Canada and starting a career in Geneva. Helen visited him, he visited us, and we all had plans for the future. Inevitably, life got in the way; we were all busy, and that time has now gone. But we had a great time, and those memories are something that cannot be taken away.

Thanks, Mike! Love you, big guy! See you again one day.

**Andrew Mason (96)**  
Friend

## PAUL ADRIAN TAMS

NOVEMBER 24TH 1943 - JULY 12TH 2022  
OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1955 - 1959

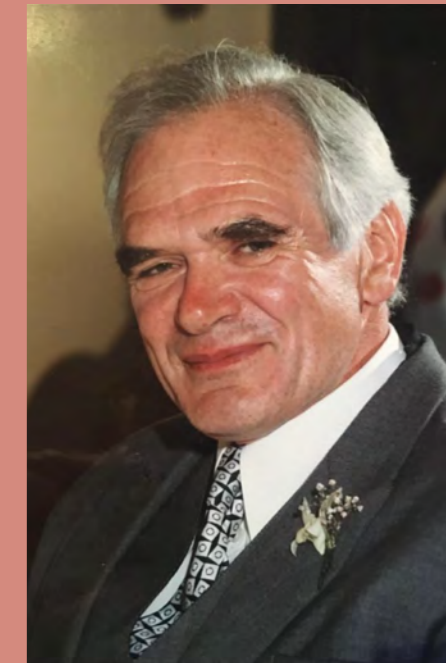
Paul was the youngest of four children born to **Peter (31)** and Olive Tams. He followed his brothers, **Gerald (56)** and **David (60)**, to Grace Dieu, and then to Ratcliffe College. At Ratcliffe, Paul was a keen cricketer, winning his Second XI colours, and he also became a member of the choir. With a good voice, he performed in several of the annual productions of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. He was always grateful to Ratcliffe, and particularly to Ray Guinee (the then Head of Music) and **Br Adrian Smith (49)**, who encouraged, at an early stage in his life, an appreciation of classical music. Paul carried this with him for the rest of his life; I recall many happy visits to the Proms with him and his wife, Judy.

Paul left Ratcliffe to become articled to a firm of solicitors in Uttoxeter in Staffordshire. Following qualification, he

had a successful career in law, working firstly in London, then Malvern, Maidstone, and finally as a senior partner with a leading firm in Peterborough. During his retirement, Paul worked as a volunteer at a local children's hospice, and as an unpaid legal adviser to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Paul married his wife, Judy, in 1970. They had three children: **Matthew (89)**, Ben, and Andrea. Paul was a proud and dedicated family man with a kind and generous nature, and he was always full of fun. His sporting instincts led to geriatric golf in his later years, where his sense of humour, sometimes sorely tested, was never found wanting. Paul kept his Catholic religion throughout his life and lived it accordingly. He passed away at home on July 12th 2022.

**David Tams (60)**  
Brother



## ARAN CHADA

JULY 26TH 1970 - JULY 22ND 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1984 - 1989



Aran passed away in the most tragic of circumstances, a week after his marriage to his beloved wife, and four days prior to his 52nd birthday, in Lake Garda, Italy. His last days were spent there - a place that the family loved so very much, and where they hoped to spend part of their later lives together. He leaves behind his beautiful wife, Holly, and two very young children, Roman and Floren.

Aran was a vivacious character who lived his very short life to the full. A true carer, pacifier, and peacemaker. Immensely kind, compassionate, and charismatic, he touched so many lives in such a positive and powerful way, and yet he never really comprehended the power of simply being

him. He lit up a room when he entered it and provided so much energy and joy to us all. He had an art of turning negatives into positives and a remarkably bullish approach to life that often defied the gravity of what he confronted. A consistent beacon of light that never dimmed, having the ability to lift people up in their worst moments. This was not a skill, but an art that he perfected.

Aran spent his senior years at Ratcliffe, and it is there that he found many of his closest friends with whom he stayed in touch. He was lucky enough to make it through his A Levels, as he was often in trouble. He was always very intelligent, finding himself in the privileged position of doing little work and getting excellent grades throughout. His mind was mostly elsewhere, considering the social events that he was sure to attend or organise, rather than studying. His university years at Nottingham and Coventry were very much spent in the same vein, coasting through the social scenes and doing little work, but, again, getting good grades.

Most of Aran's career was spent working for an oil and gas company, acting as a group sales director. He travelled extensively throughout Africa and spent a significant part of his life abroad. He was very successful, and family time was sacred to him as a result, since his travelling

meant that he could not spend as much time with them as he wished. A family man, Aran always ensured that he was in a position to make it up to the family when he returned, and he used his time to the full. Exceptionally active, too, he was either at the gym, jogging, walking the dog, or playing tennis with his friends. There was rarely any time wasted.

Roman and Floren Chada are very much Aran's replicas, ensuring that his beautiful legacy continues. Roman is currently at Ratcliffe, and Floren will attend in 2023. It would have been his wish that they both had the very best start in life, as he did.

As his brother, the void that he has left is immensely painful. In the four weeks prior to this tragedy, he and I spent more time together and abroad than we ever had before. For this, I will be eternally grateful. There can be some sanctuary in that, but I cannot stop thinking about how it would have been for us to grow old together as a family, as it should have been. Aran will now rest in peace opposite his mother, and his children will continue his legacy.

'Life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour, and some style.' - Maya Angelou

**Konrad Chada (92)**  
 Brother

## GREG O'CONNOR

NOVEMBER 5TH 1964 - MAY 2ND 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1978 - 1983

Greg O'Connor was the most passionate man that I have ever known. So, it is with great sadness that I must tell you of his passing in May 2022 at his home in Loughborough. He was surrounded by those he loved most: his beloved wife, Yvonne, daughter, Camilla, son, Tom, his dearest mother, Mary, his darling sister, Catherine, his devoted brothers, **Fr Dominic (79), Fr Chris (81), Ben (83)** (and his wife, Fiona), Pete, Francis, and his sister-in-law, Frances (who, together with Camilla, nursed him to the end). Also by his side was Greg's parish priest, Fr Paul Gillham, a Rosminian, for his final hour,

who said that he had never witnessed such a holy and spiritual death before. I certainly haven't.

Greg had the most infectious smile; it lifted the room when he entered, no matter what the occasion. He had a special gift, being able to relate to and talk with all people, of all ages, especially young people. They loved him - Greg was cool!

Greg's Catholic faith was the most important of all his passions. He practised and studied it, and he lived it to the end. He was prepared for death well before he knew of his illness. He would often ask me



whether I was prepared for judgement. 'An eternity, Pascal - do you really understand what that means?', he would say, with extreme passion in his voice. Greg was totally unafraid, and he never complained. He laid his illness and the suffering that ravaged his body down at the foot of the cross - an unbelievable testament of his unwavering faith.

Greg touched so many lives in his parish community of Loughborough, which meant so much to him. He was extremely active in all aspects of parish life, which explains the completely packed church at his funeral at the end of June. Greg was especially dedicated to the Pro-Life Movement for the protection of the unborn.

He was dedicated to his family, to everyone. He was always there, always. Never missing special occasions, hand-written cards with words of love and encouragement, phone calls, and frequent visits to all. Greg had such a strong love for his wife, his beautiful daughters, Camilla and Rosie, and his mother, and he had always been so protective of his loving sister from such

a young age, since our days at Ratcliffe College. The total love and respect that Greg had for his brothers, he so often spoke of, too. He absolutely adored all his nieces and nephews, and they adored him. Greg was so Peter Pan-like. So youthful. He loved music, fashion, and movies.

Friendship was also very important to Greg. He had many friends and was always making new ones, as it was impossible not to want to be friends with him. He made time for us all, making us feel that we mattered to him, and that we were special - unbelievable, really.

Greg was an artist and designer. He especially liked furniture design and architecture, which could be seen in his beautiful house, which he designed and totally remodelled. Greg took his talents and made his living running his own design business. He ran every aspect of the business himself, from sales to design and accounting. He could do it all, self-taught mostly. Not bad for a 'Set 3 boy' from Ratcliffe College. Don't forget, 'Set 3 boys' run the world!

As with any red-blooded Englishman, Greg loved his sport, and he was a lifelong Derby County fan. He adored cricket, and had a lot of talent himself for the game. He was opening batsman, along with his good friend **Chris Merriman (83)**, for the Ratcliffe College 1st XI while in the Fifth Form, which was quite an honour back in those days. What he enjoyed most was putting off bowlers while setting up at bat.

Greg was an Englishman, and to be truly English, one must have a passion for gardening, which he had in spades. His most recent passion was for flowers and, in particular, vegetable gardening. His gardens were immaculate, with not a weed in sight, and his attention to detail was meticulous - he even had spreadsheets!

Greg O'Connor was one of the finest boys to ever come out of Ratcliffe College.

You were always there. Until we meet again. Your brother-in-arms,

**Pascal Mascaux (81)**  
 Friend

## JACOB HOLFORD (DORSEY)

OCTOBER 25TH 1998 - FEBRUARY 13TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 2010 - 2015



lived until Jacob was 12 years old. From then on, we spent most of our time in the village of Great Glen.

Jacob's childhood consisted of climbing trees, riding his bike, and learning how to fix anything and everything - all thanks to his grandpa. This practical nature would follow him throughout the rest of his life. He attended Sacred Heart Primary School in Loughborough, before joining Ratcliffe in Year 7. It was never an easy feat finding school uniform to fit the 'gentle giant' - a nickname fondly given to him by his Reception class teacher, Mrs Sturgess.

Lifelong friendships were formed from the moment he took his Ratcliffe entrance exam. My brother's friends quickly became like extended family. I've been told many times that their annual trip to Norfolk was the highlight of their year, creating unforgettable memories only to be shared over a drink. I have never seen a group of friends quite like it, and we will treasure their stories forever.

Jacob enjoyed playing rugby for Ratcliffe, always towering above the rest and proving a great asset to his team. He was

never an academic child in the traditional sense, but he was a hard worker, and he had an eagerness to succeed. His skills and interests lay outside the classroom. He was an entrepreneur in many ways, and he certainly had a charm about him - I'm sure his teachers would agree.

Once Jacob had completed his GSCEs in 2015, he left Ratcliffe to pursue an apprenticeship with a local plumbing firm, GCL Hopkins. Although he didn't attend Sixth Form with his peers, I've been told that he wasn't one to miss Bar Night, and he remained a familiar face.

Jacob then went on to work in a number of building firms, most recently working with Williams Homes. He had regularly been working seven days a week in order to set up his own trade business. At the time of his passing, he was so close to working for himself full-time. That was his dream. He was more than capable of excelling at this, and we were all so proud. I know Jacob had so much to give, and he was only just getting started.

**Isabelle Holford (15)**  
 Sister

## FR JOHN GRAHAM GOTT

JUNE 9TH 1938 – MARCH 28TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1950 – 1955

John Graham Gott was born in Huddersfield on June 9th 1938. While still a young boy, his family moved to Halifax, where he was educated at St Mary's Primary School, before attending Ratcliffe College. After leaving school, he was called up for National Service and joined the Royal Air Force.

John subsequently studied for the priesthood at Ushaw College in County Durham, and he was ordained at St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds on June 12th 1965. Following his ordination, he was appointed as assistant priest in the parish of St Theresa, at Cross Gates in Leeds. The following year, he moved across the city to St Anthony's parish in Beeston. In 1973, he was appointed to St Austin's in Wakefield, where he was also chaplain to Wakefield Prison. He stayed in the city for two years, before moving to the parish of St Paulinus in Dewsbury.

In 1979, Bishop Wheeler appointed him as parish priest of St Thomas of Canterbury at Hebden Bridge, and so began John's association with the Calder Valley that lasted for the rest of his life. For many years, he served not only Hebden Bridge, but also the churches at Luddenden Foot (St Walburga's) and Mytholmroyd (St Peter and St Paul). In 1990, a new church and

parish centre was opened in Mytholmroyd, dedicated to The Good Shepherd, and John moved into the adjoining presbytery. In due course, the churches at Hebden Bridge and Luddenden Foot were closed, and the Calder Valley parish was consolidated, with The Church of the Good Shepherd at its heart.

On Boxing Day in 2015, John was in the kitchen of the presbytery at Mytholmroyd, when the River Calder burst its banks, and a wall of water crashed into the house and the church, with devastating effect. He had to be rescued from the property by the emergency services and move in with relatives, as the presbytery was deemed uninhabitable. The church was closed for nine months. When the refurbishments were completed, it reopened on September 24th 2016 with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Marcus Stock.

Following his retirement later in 2016, John continued to live in the Mytholmroyd area, latterly in residential care. During his final illness, he was cared for at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, where he died on March 28th 2022, aged 83.

Above all, perhaps, John will be remembered for his devotion to the Catholic community of the Calder Valley,



which he served for almost 40 years, delaying his retirement by three years until he was 78. After so many years, he was also much-respected in the wider community of the Valley. The development of The Good Shepherd in Mytholmroyd is his legacy, and a living testament to his view of the church as a place for worship, for community, and for reaching out to the society of today.

His Requiem Mass was concelebrated by Bishop Marcus Stock and 18 priests who had known him over many years. Our family shared in the Mass, with our daughters, grandchildren, and niece delivering the readings and bidding prayers. John will be missed by us all, but his later years were difficult with mobility and illness. Now, he cannot suffer pain, and he has his eternal reward in Heaven. May he rest in peace.

**Helen Wilson**  
 Sister

## DR ADRIAN WESTON MBE, MA, DHF

JUNE 7TH 1935 – MARCH 14TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1946 – 1953

Adrian joined Grace Dieu Manor in 1941 at the tender age of 6, when his father, Harold, was in North Africa for the war. Whilst the war meant that food was scarce, the heating non-existent, and that life was limited to the grounds of the school, the education was first-class. Adrian remembered Grace Dieu as being a cheerful school at which he was very happy. He recalled one of his strongest memories of lying in bed at 6am on a warm, summer morning, listening to the noise of the tractor bringing the milk from the farm to the school in a chorus of birdsong, with a particularly strong pigeon section. He said, 'At those times, I knew God lived at Grace Dieu'.

In September 1946, aged 11, Adrian joined Ratcliffe with many of his friends from Grace Dieu. Compared to his old school, it seemed rather dark and intimidating at first, but he soon found his feet. He turned to all of the sports that the school had to offer (although he tried exceptionally hard to avoid cross-country running), with considerable success, proudly wearing the colours of four sports on his blazer. In his last year at Ratcliffe, he was asked to play for the Leicester Tigers, but he turned the opportunity down because he had already committed to playing hockey for Leicester Westleigh. **Fr Leetham (1915)**, the headmaster, who had assured the Tigers that Adrian would be delighted to play,



never forgave him, and he got his own back at the end of term by writing a scathing review of Adrian's rugby in the *Ratcliffian*. 'Very petty' was Adrian's verdict.

Adrian described the food at Ratcliffe as poor, causing a lifelong dislike of swede and turnip, which were used as 'fillers'. Dried egg, made up with water into 'egg splosh', was recalled as odd, and it apparently led to a quite unsuccessful food strike one term. Roast meat was served on Sundays, with four joints for 300 mouths, carved by the senior prefects. When he became one of them, he quickly learnt to carve so thinly that you could see the light easily through the slices; if you ran out, it was the carver who went without.

Whilst conditions were basic (Adrian's great friend, **John Heggs (53)**, said that his abiding memories of Ratcliffe were of being hungry and cold), Adrian thrived and enjoyed his time at school, feeling that Ratcliffe served him well.

In June 1953, he left school and soon

entered the RAF for his National Service. It was a formative and enjoyable experience. He was commissioned as a pilot officer and played hockey for his RAF station on pitches that were either gravel parade grounds (on which it was unwise to fall over) or runways (on which, occasionally, matches had to be suspended temporarily, so that an aircraft could land).

Following his National Service, Adrian read Jurisprudence at Oxford University and subsequently enjoyed a successful career as a corporate solicitor. For many years, until his retirement, he was a senior partner at Harvey Ingram, solicitors in his home town of Leicester, building the practice up to become the leading firm in Leicester and the East Midlands, and well-regarded nationally.

Adrian engaged in many roles beyond the law, being a non-executive director of a number of companies, chairman of the English Hockey Association, a governor of both Grace Dieu Manor School and Ratcliffe College, and serving nine years as

a lay member of the University of Leicester, which bestowed on him a Distinguished Honorary Fellowship and granted him an honorary doctorate in 2009.

Adrian worked tirelessly and generously on a number of projects to install sculptures in Leicestershire, particularly at De Montfort Hall, the University of Leicester, and New Walk, and he acted as a trustee of the preservation society Friends of New Walk. In 2015, he was awarded an MBE for his services to hockey and the community.

By his own description, Adrian played 'good hockey with Westleigh HC, reasonable cricket with Ivanhoe CC, and indifferent golf at Leicestershire GC'.

Adrian passed away peacefully in March 2022 at the age of 86. He was predeceased by his wife, Bridget, who died in 2014, and is survived by his son, Tom, his daughter, Alex, and his grandchildren, James and Ellen.

**Tom Weston (87)**  
 Son

## MICHAEL PHILIP PATRICK CLARKE

APRIL 17TH 1949 – AUGUST 8TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1962 – 1967

On his arrival at Ratcliffe in September 1962, Michael went straight into the A stream and was very vociferous. He was one of those maddeningly annoying souls who was good at everything, being particularly strong in French and English. With the surname Clarke, his nickname was obviously 'Nobby'.

Outside the classroom, Michael was a wonderful fullback and goal kicker in **Pat Gordon's (67)** unbeaten 1967 1st XV rugby team, in which his brother, **Patrick (69)**, excelled in the centre. However, Michael displayed his supreme skills on the cricket pitch. He never told us that he had been coached at Edgbaston and played for Warwickshire's Under 12s, right up to the Warwickshire Young Amateurs. He also stood by for the senior side, but he said he was just a naturally gifted batsman. Opening the batting as captain of the 1st XI, he was a prodigious scorer of runs, and more than once, he deposited the cricket ball over the Pavilion and into the swimming pool. He really was a master batsman.

Michael was senior chorister on our trip to Loreto and Rome, representing the Pueri Cantores at the International Choir Festival in 1967. While we were there, the nuns at

Porta Latina organised a football match for us against a local team, who turned up in their all-white kit and with new footballs, while we had no football boots and had to use our jeans and T-shirts to play in. We lost 13 - 2 (Nobby did score both of our goals), but we had the last laugh when Sandie Shaw won the Eurovision Song Contest for the United Kingdom later in the evening with 'Puppet on a String'!

Michael was a great clarinet player in the Concert Band, the School Orchestra, the CCF Band (conscripted), and our Jazz Band, called 'The Swinging Eugenes', in tribute to **Fr Eugene Monaghan (53)**, the Director of Music. Michael was also House Captain of Arundel.

An amusing and gifted raconteur, Michael went on to be a teacher in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham, where his roots lay. He also played for Alcester RFC, regular opponents of the Old Ratcliffians, with his brother, John. Some great Sunday afternoons were spent with hordes of Gallaghers, often stretching far too long into the evening.

Last year, Michael achieved his ambition of purchasing a house in Anglesey, and we regret that he didn't have more time to

enjoy the locality that he loved. He leaves two children, Joanna and Nicholas, from his first marriage to Dianne, and Leah and Eleanor from his partnership with Barbara. He also leaves his long-time partner, Louise; they will all miss him. Michael was a gifted, skilled, and artistic man who we will always be proud to call our friend.

**Bernard Murphy (67) & Andrew Gamble (68), with contributions from Patrick Clarke (69)**  
 Friends & Brother



## FR LOUIS BEASLEY-SUFFOLK

JUNE 18TH 1941 - DECEMBER 17TH 2021  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1953 - 1960



Very sadly, we are fast approaching the anniversary of Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk's passing on December 17th 2021. He was a unique character in every sense, and he will be forever remembered with great affection, and sorely missed by all who knew him.

Louis was born in Coventry on June 18th 1941. He was the second of six children, three of whom attended Ratcliffe. His parents eventually moved to Bristol, where he attended St Brendan's, before going to Ratcliffe in September 1953.

Suffice to say that Louis loved every minute of his time at Ratcliffe. He excelled on the sports field, first representing the 1st

XV at rugby in the Fourth Form, aged 15, along with his great pals **Patrick (Paddy) De Burca (60)** and **Michael (Mick) Powell (59)**, as well as playing hockey for the 1st XI. He also represented Ratcliffe at boxing, which he loved. He excelled at drama and music, being a very fine pianist and doyen of the College Jazz Band.

Louis, by his own admission, was not the most attentive pupil in the classroom, and his impish sense of humour and fun often landed him in hot water, resulting in frequent 'pep talks' with **Pip Catchside (37)** and **Claude Leetham (1915)**, Master of Discipline and Father President, respectively, at that time. One particular

incident involved him being caught playing jazz on the Chapel organ!

After Ratcliffe, Louis enjoyed a varied career in several walks of life, working in anything and everything, from a timber yard to insurance, before he and his dear wife, Mary, moved back to Bristol. He owned and ran a successful newsagent's there for many years, followed by a vehicle hire franchise partnership in Gloucester, at the same time as bringing up seven children and taking an active role in his local parish and community.

Sometime after Mary died in 1999, Louis was encouraged by his parish priest to enter the priesthood. Following his acceptance, he attended the Pontifical Bede College in Rome, where he had great fun, before being ordained in Bristol in June 2004.

Now Fr Louis, he was eventually appointed parish priest of St Luke and St Teresa's in Wincanton, within the Clifton Diocese. He was as much admired for his energy, wisdom, and abilities as a priest as he was for his forthright views, unfailing sense of humour, pranks, and general antics.

Louis Beasley-Suffolk was the proudest of Old Ratcliffians. He loved Ratcliffe and all that it stood for, and continues to stand for. May he rest in peace.

**John Hodgson (86)**  
 Son-in-Law to Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk



## DESMOND BEASLEY-SUFFOLK

OCTOBER 23RD 1944 - MARCH 6TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1956 - 1963

Shortly after Fr Louis' passing, his brother, Des, died, on March 6th 2022. Des attended Ratcliffe from 1956 until 1963. He was another colourful character who enjoyed a short career in motor racing, before going on to a highly successful career in banking with Coutts.

Des is survived by his wife, Liz, and his daughters, Tamara and Samantha. His son, Tristram, tragically predeceased him. May he also rest in peace.

**John Hodgson (86)**  
 Son-in-Law to Fr Louis Beasley-Suffolk

## ANTHONY LAURENCE KREMER

JUNE 25TH 1946 - JUNE 15TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1959 - 1962

I met my husband, Tony, in February 1966, when we were both students at King's College London. I in my final year of studying German, and he in his second year. We fell immediately in love and were engaged by April.

We came from very different backgrounds; Tony had attended seven different schools, I just the one secondary school. He had moved house constantly, as a result of having an entrepreneurial father seeking to start his own business - hence Tony's parents' decision to send him to boarding school, I think, at the age of 13. I don't know why Ratcliffe was chosen, but Tony's mother was Catholic, and obviously this played a big part in the decision.

Tony loved his sport, and he especially relished the opportunity to enjoy the long summer evenings playing cricket in the beautiful surroundings at Ratcliffe. He also played rugby (pictured, below, on the front row, far left) and hockey, then squash, when, one year, the ground was too hard for rugby. I also heard a lot about the boys' trips at the weekend to the cinema in Nottingham, or to the skating rink.

Tony also played the viola, and I believe he was in the school orchestra. He recently

received, as a gift, a book by Clemency Burton-Hill called *Year Of Wonder*, containing pieces of music and notes by her for every day of the year. Typically, Tony made pencil notes as he listened to each one, and on January 5th, he listened to 'Crucifixus' by Antonio Lotti. His note read: 'Soaring choral sounds took me straight back to Ratcliffe. Profound.'

When we met, Tony was flying with the University Air Squadron, having won a flying scholarship from school. I don't, however, know whether he did this at Ratcliffe or at Whitgift School, which he attended for the last year of his A Levels. But flying was his passion. Set to become a commercial pilot after graduating, this dream was abruptly curtailed when it was discovered that he had an incurable eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa, bringing his flying career to an end.

Ever positive, Tony seized upon a new world - the world of computing, joining BEA to get a Postgraduate Distinction in Management Studies, at a time when computers were still the size of a house! Thus began a career which took him all over the world, acting as a consultant to companies such as Cable and Wireless, and

Deloitte and Touche, amongst others.

On his eventual retirement, Tony became something of a community warrior, always full of ideas and having the persuasive powers to get things done. He loved this role, and he was the inspiration behind so many local initiatives, including leading the town on an H G Wells project, which concluded at the only statue in the country of the man himself, in Woking, where Wells lived and wrote.

Throughout his life, Tony never lost his faith, but he did cross over to the Church of England, notably when the latter voted for the ordination of women at the Synod, where our local Bishop of Guildford spoke movingly in its favour. Tony took instruction and said he was amazed at how close the two churches really were. He was then received into the Church of England at Guildford Cathedral; his smile was radiant, and I realised how much he had been missing this part of his life.

Tony was a happy man, a family man, and much loved. His ashes will be interred in the churchyard of our local church in Horsell.

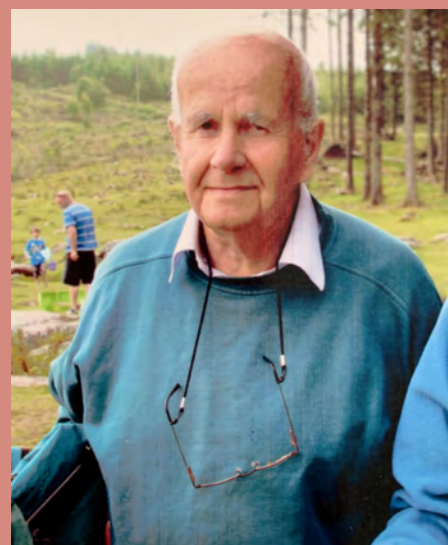
**Sandra Kremer**  
 Wife



## RICHARD FINBARR POWER

NOVEMBER 17TH 1924 - APRIL 1ST 2013  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1936 - 1942

Richard was the youngest of four brothers to study at Ratcliffe College; **John Power (32)**, **Norman Power (34)**, and **William Power (34)** had all passed through before him. They had, in turn, followed in the footsteps of their grandfather, **Thomas Hale (1869)**, and their uncles, **Wilfred Hale** and **Leo Hale**. Before arriving at Ratcliffe, Richard had also been a pupil at Grace Dieu. He always spoke warmly of his time at Ratcliffe, but also of how hard it was to be a distant observer as his home town of Coventry endured the Blitz; the glow from the fire was visible from the school.



Richard left Ratcliffe to join the Royal Marines without completing his School Certificate, following the examples of his brothers, Norman (Royal Navy) and William (Royal Artillery), and all three served in the Armed Forces until the end of the war. His eldest brother, John, had joined their father's practice as a doctor, working in Coventry throughout the war years. The training to become a marine was tough, but Richard relished the physical challenge. He eventually joined a landing craft unit and trained to participate in the D-Day landings, but to his eternal regret, his unit was held in reserve, and he didn't see active service.

On being demobbed, Richard returned to full-time education, this time studying Agriculture at the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester. From there, he went on to manage a family farm in Wales, before setting up a wholesale confectionery business with his brother, William, who, by now, was settled in Exeter. The business thrived, and in time, it was sold to a competitor.

It was while Richard was living in Exeter that he met Eileen. They clicked straight away and were married in 1959, going on to have six children together. Three of their sons - **Richard (77)**, **James (81)**, and

**Tom (81)** - also attended Ratcliffe. They initially lived in Exeter, where Richard trained to be a teacher, and later, after settling in Wiltshire, he became headteacher of a primary school. He loved teaching, taking particular pleasure in demonstrating a variety of science experiments.

On his retirement, Richard and Eileen returned to Devon, this time settling in the north of the county, on the edge of Exmoor. Throughout his life, he was devoted to his family - nothing mattered more - and he loved visits from his children and grandchildren. When he could, he pursued his passion for botany, and while on family walks, he would unfailingly fall behind the rest of the group as he paused to study a plant that had caught his eye.

Richard died peacefully in hospital in Brighton on April 1st 2013, surrounded by his family. He is buried in a small North-Devon churchyard, close to the grave of his son, Tom, who died in 1994. He was a devout Roman Catholic, and his teachers at Ratcliffe - especially **Fr Emery (1904)** and **Fr Leetham (1915)** - remained important influences throughout his life.

**James Power (81)**  
 Son

## POLLY CURRAN (NÉE BENTLEY)

SEPTEMBER 10TH 1953 - JULY 17TH 2022  
 TEACHER AT RATCLIFFE 1995 - 2010

Polly died peacefully in her sleep on July 17th 2022, after a well-fought battle with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) that took her sooner than we all would have hoped. She lived life to its fullest, exploring continents, earning international hockey superstar status, and drinking glühwein like a champion with her beloved Bryan in the Austrian Alps, all while raising a family and having a fulfilling teaching career.

She taught at Ratcliffe for nearly 15 years, from September 1995 to August 2010, and she was the first teacher of the Newman junior school. She will be remembered for the balance that she held, always being one to have immaculate hair, nails, and fantastic dress, yet also the first to take to

muddy hiking trails, play tennis matches past sundown, and volunteering eagerly for whatever adventure presented itself.

Polly stayed well dressed and manicured until the end. She kept travelling extensively as the illness took its course, even taking in just one more safari. This is the classy and adventurous spirit that we will all remember her for.

A celebration of Polly's life was held on August 17th 2022 at Lichfield and District Crematorium, with a wake afterwards at The Deer Park in Hoar Cross. Attendees were encouraged to come 'dressed to impress', in the spirit of Polly.

**Sarah Bentley (97)**  
 Daughter



## STEPHEN BROOKS

MAY 30TH 1932 - APRIL 16TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1947 - 1951



Stephen was born in 1932 in South Wales. His early boyhood was spent in Cardiff, where his wartime memories focused on the excitement of exploring bomb sites and collecting shrapnel after air raids, and the privations of food rationing.

Stephen enjoyed Ratcliffe, where his strong Catholic faith was nurtured, his interest in history and science was encouraged, and he became a fine rugby player. He would speak casually of being sent off the pitch, concussed, and once, he punctured his lung from a cracked rib when the scrum collapsed on top of him. Food rationing remained in place at Ratcliffe, and he would shudder when remembering the infamous 'egg splot' - the reconstituted egg omelette. Other schoolboy exploits included climbing the cliffs on a school outing to escape the incoming tide, and getting separated from the school party on a visit to Paris; Stephen and a friend were taken in for the night by a kindly French couple, and restored to the school party the following morning.

After Ratcliffe, Stephen went to Cardiff University to read Chemistry. A fellow graduate at Cardiff was his beloved wife, Belle, whom he married in 1957. Stephen then taught Chemistry, mainly in Wolverhampton at Our Lady of Mercy Grammar School, then in Cheltenham at Charlton Park Convent. He was an inspiring teacher, with a gift for explaining the complexities of the subject. Many former students kept in close contact with him after they left, showing their appreciation.

After leaving teaching, Stephen and Belle started Driveaway Tours, taking visitors around the Cotswolds and introducing them to its rich history and 'wool churches'. Stephen loved history and enjoyed pointing out the finer details of the various Gothic styles. He also loved literature - particularly the great Victorian novelists, Hardy, Trollope, and Dickens; opera - especially Wagner; and classical music. He played the piano well, and he had a fine tenor voice.

Stephen was a devout and committed Catholic all his life, from his days as an altar server in Cardiff, where he recalled battling through deep snow in 1947 to serve Mass, and receiving a chocolate bar from the priest as a reward for being the only server who managed to get there. He was a staunch member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, and he was generous in supporting others. He would visit those in need and had great regard for their humanity.

Although Stephen had many interests, his family was the most important aspect of his life. He adored his wife, Belle, and for 58 years, their strong and loving marriage was a source of joy to them both. He delighted in his daughters, Rosemary, Harriet, Geraldine, Jenny, and Lucy.

Stephen was a true gentleman, kind, thoughtful, supportive, humorous, knowledgeable, charming, courteous, generous, always interested in others, and very hospitable. We remember and honour him with deep love and affection, with great pride, and profound joy.

**Rosemary Bubb, Harriet Elvin, Geraldine Brooks, Jennifer Allen & Lucy Brooks**  
 Daughters



## CHRISTOPHER FRANCIS HYNES

MAY 4TH 1936 - JUNE 25TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1948 - 1954



Christopher Hynes was born in Chelsea, London, and evacuated from his family home following the Blitz in World War II,

to relatives on the Wirral. Shortly after the war, he returned to his Battersea home, then boarded at Ratcliffe College, following his brothers, **Patrick (43)**, **Bernard (44)**, **Michael (47)**, and **Paul (47)** to the school.

Christopher was a keen sportsman, but a less keen academic. He revelled in the opportunities that Ratcliffe gave him to follow his passion for all sports, gaining honours in cricket, rugby, hockey (pictured, below, centre, front row), and athletics; he was also an especially keen boxer. In addition, from photographic records, we know that he enjoyed participating in performances of *The Mikado* and *The Pirates of Penzance* as part of Ratcliffe's Dramatic Society. He would often recount his experiences at Ratcliffe, explaining how they formed his character as a diligent worker and a lover of sports. Perhaps this, above all else, led to his great commitment to the game of golf in his middle and later years.

After leaving Ratcliffe, Christopher qualified as a chartered surveyor, and he worked for several esteemed commercial-property, London-based firms. He was proud to end his distinguished career in the role of Surveyor of The Crown Estate

- a position that he held from the early 1980s up until his retirement in 1997. He was honoured to have met the late Queen Elizabeth II and the new monarch, King Charles III, on several occasions in this role, which oversaw the facilities and properties of the Crown.

Christopher developed issues with his memory in the last decade of his life, but his long-held beliefs in family, faithfulness, and decency remained with him always. He died peacefully, aged 86, in June 2022 at the Alban Manor Nursing Home in St Albans. He was a truly good man. He is survived by his wife, Mary, three sons, and six grandchildren.

**Ben Hynes**  
 Son



## NUALA CARR (NÉE O'DONNELL)

DECEMBER 24TH 1948 - MAY 16TH 2022  
 STAFF MEMBER AT RATCLIFFE 1989 - 2005

Our mum, Nuala, passed away unexpectedly on May 16th 2022. It was, without a doubt, a huge shock to everyone. We're not sure it's really hit us yet at all.

One of the things that we remember most is the time that mum worked at Ratcliffe as the Registrar and Marketing Manager, from January 1989 until December 2005, and then, after her retirement, her continued support of the Ratcliffian Association.

Mum was funny, kind, and very organised! We could not get over the amount of colour-coded and labelled plastic folders that we came across as we faced the hugely sad task of packing up the family house. She had been the primary carer for our dad, Chris, who has Parkinson's with dementia, and it may be that this took a very big toll on her towards the end.

Mum's funeral was attended by so many people whom she had met over the years, and there were, without exception, only fond memories of the times people had spent with her. It was evident that she touched many people's lives in a positive way, and that anyone who knew her missed her enormously, which gave us some comfort.

We, her family - daughters, Louise and Elinor, son-in-law, Dominic, and the grandchildren, Gabriella, Sabrina, and Christian - want to thank everyone for all their kind wishes.

**Elinor Carr & Louise Proietti Tocca**  
 Daughters



## ROBERT JULIUS REICHENBACH

SEPTEMBER 2ND 1943 - FEBRUARY 20TH 2022  
 OLD RATCLIFFIAN 1956 - 1961

Robert was born on September 2nd 1943, the second son to Ernest and Marie-Louise, in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. His elder brother, **Peter (54)**, was born in 1936 and also attended Ratcliffe College.

The family moved to Birstall, Leicester, in 1946. Robert joined Ratcliffe in 1956 as a boarder, where he studied the trombone and received school colours for athletics (shot put) and rugby. He was a member of the Junior TA, Army Cadets, and also enjoyed rowing.

Robert left Ratcliffe in 1961 with A Levels in Maths, Physics, and Chemistry, and he enrolled at Leicester Polytechnic. He then took up a place at UCL to read Anatomy and Physiology, and he qualified with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1964. While he was there, he went on a study trip to Naples to conduct research on the nervous systems of octopi.

In 1965, Robert went to Merton College, Oxford, to study for his medical degree, where he represented the college at rowing. He qualified in 1970 and carried out a series of house jobs at Radcliffe Infirmary; these included paediatrics,

geriatrics, obstetrics, and gynaecology, and he also worked in the A&E Department.

A year later, Robert moved to Ibadan, Nigeria, with his family. There, he formed part of a team from Oxford University to carry out a drug trial of dantrolene, an anti-spasmodic developed for the treatment of tetanus, which was prevalent in Nigeria.

In 1973, Robert joined a GP training scheme, working in practices in Eynsham and North Oxford. A year later, he moved to Winchester as a partner in a GP surgery, where he became the GP trainer for the practice.

Peter and Robert were both keen golfers, and the brothers would arrange to meet up periodically for a game of golf, followed by a meal, despite the several miles between them.

After a period of ill health, Robert took early retirement. His funeral took place at Basingstoke Crematorium on March 7th 2022. He is survived by three daughters, his (second) wife, and two stepchildren.

**Peter Reichenbach (54)**  
 Brother



## IN MEMORIAM

Notifications of the deaths of the following Old Ratcliffians and associates have been received since the last edition of *The Old Ratcliffian*:

- Clive Wicks (54)**
- Louis Beasley-Suffolk (60)**
- Richard (Dick) Galliano (50)**
- Desmond Beasley-Suffolk (63)**
- Jacob Holford (Dorsey) (15)**
- Robert Reichenbach (61)**
- Mikola Mahiga (95)**
- Brian Carroll (47)**

- Richard Power (42)**
- Charles O'Toole (83)**
- John Gott (55)**
- Adrian Weston (53)**
- Greg O'Connor (83)**
- Christopher Hynes (54)**
- Paul Tams (59)**
- Stephen Brooks (51)**

- Michael Clarke (67)**
- Aran Chada (89)**
- Anthony Kremer (62)**
- ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**
- Polly Curran (née Bentley) (Former Teacher)**
- Nuala Carr (née O'Donnell) (Former Staff Member)**
- Josie Della-Porta (Ascribed Member)**

## REQUIESCANT IN PACE

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



## CELEBRATING RATCLIFFE'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY

What a privilege it has been for the whole College community to be part of the 175th Anniversary of Ratcliffe College. Throughout the Summer Term, students, staff, parents, governors, trustees, and alumni have come together to celebrate this auspicious moment in the College's history, and to reflect upon Blessed Antonio Rosmini's incredible legacy.

It is hard to imagine Ratcliffe College back in 1847. Fortunately, as well as Googling information about the school, we do also have a 'little blue book', produced a good number of years ago, on the history of Ratcliffe, as well as being blessed with a number of beautiful black-and-white photographs from the past, which adorn the walls along the Senior School corridors. As many of you will know, Ratcliffe College originally began in 1844 as a novitiate, before opening its doors in 1847 to its first pupils: two boys who joined the College in June of that year. Much has changed since Ratcliffe first began educating boys. The College evolved and grew, and in 1977, the first female boarding students were welcomed into the Sixth Form, with girls being admitted throughout the College in 1984. Junior pupils were admitted to the Newman building (named after Cardinal John Henry Newman) in 1982, and the year group expansion continued until 1998, when Ratcliffe opened its Nursery, making the 3-to-18-year education complete.

The current College Chapel has also changed. It used to house a large canopy over the altar, until **Fr Keith Tomlinson (52)** decided

to modernise the look of the Chapel, possibly also with a view to enhancing the acoustics. Mr Tim Kilbride commenced as the first lay headmaster in 1996. Ratcliffe College now has a healthy school roll of 900 day and boarding students, and its impressive grounds and facilities continue to make it a very attractive choice for families.

Our latest addition to the campus is the new English Language Centre, which will open at the beginning of the new academic year in September 2022. Ratcliffe is situated within a very competitive area for independent schools, and it has rightfully earned its place as an 'Excellent' school, as judged by ISI in our May inspection, of which we are rightfully proud.

The students and staff have participated in a wide range of 175th Anniversary activities. The College community celebrated the Feast of Blessed Antonio Rosmini on Friday 1st July with a beautiful Mass. On Sunday 3rd July, we warmly welcomed Father General of the Rosminian Order, Fr Marco Tanghetti, who travelled from Rome to celebrate the 175th Anniversary Mass in the Chapel with the Bishop of Nottingham, Patrick McKinney, together with parents, students, staff, and friends of Ratcliffe. Hopefully, Rosmini would be exceedingly proud of Ratcliffe College some 175 years on, and especially of its caring community, the Ratcliffe family.

**Ian Blackmore-Allen**  
Head of Marketing

## GRACE DIEU

In April 2022, it was announced that the FCV International Football Academy had acquired the 66-acre Grace Dieu estate. With plans to have moved in by September, this is the UK's first private academy to provide high-level football and education courses. You can read more about this new venture at [www.internationalfootball.academy](http://www.internationalfootball.academy).

## NURSERY SAYS FAREWELL TO CATHERINE JEYES



Catherine Jeyes is departing after 24 years' service, having been a nursery nurse at Ratcliffe since 1998, when the Nursery first opened. Many Old Ratcliffians will remember her from their own Nursery days, while others will recall her looking after their own children at the Nursery. Below are some of the tributes from people who have known and worked with her over the years:

Rachel Ravat, Head of Nursery: 'Miss Jeyes was one of the Nursery's first employees when it opened at Ratcliffe 24 years ago, in 1998. She will be remembered for many different things, but in particular, her dedication to the children in her class. She also had an incredible ability to transform a room into a beautiful, yet child-focused, environment that was engaging to the children and enabled them to thrive through sensory experiences. Her care of children was exceptional, and we have been incredibly lucky to have shared in her expertise, guidance, and teaching for 24 years. We wish her the very best as she ends this chapter of her life. She will be greatly missed, and the Nursery really won't be the same without her.'

Kerry Trasler (parent): 'Lovely Miss Jeyes, beautiful inside and out. I don't know how we would have coped without you. Ava found it very hard to leave me, and there were lots and lots of tears, but you helped enormously! Ava loved you. Thank you!'

Katie Hackett (parent): 'I cannot believe you've been at Ratcliffe for 24 years, Miss Jeyes! You look amazing! I remember you prising a very distraught Mia from around her daddy's neck on her first day (she was a very young three years old). You calmly took her inside, leaving a tearful daddy, but it was absolutely the right thing to do. When we came to pick her up, she was full of smiles and laughter, and she has loved it ever since - a job well done!'

**Louise Jackson (91)** (parent): 'Miss Jeyes, the love, care, and gentle support that you have shown to my son, Teddy, has been wonderful. Thank you for being there for him. You will be very missed indeed.'



## GARY HIGHAM RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS

Gary Higham retired from Ratcliffe's Maths Department in July this year, after 35 extraordinary years of service. His friend and colleague, Steve Jones, Head of Mathematics, shared his own memories, below:

'Gary has taught at Ratcliffe for a staggering 35 years, and he has been an outstanding teacher during that time. He has not only excelled in the teaching of Mathematics, but he has also fulfilled other roles of responsibility with distinction, not least being the very successful Head of Mathematics for 21 years. His colleagues in the Maths Department are indebted to him for his support, guidance, skill, professionalism, and commitment over the years, resulting in the best possible teaching and learning experience for all students, and therefore also producing great results. He has, as any student who has taken public examinations can testify, enabled everyone that he has taught to achieve above and beyond their expectations.

'He has inspired countless students of all abilities, and he has encouraged many to overcome difficulties at Key Stage 3, GCSE, and A Level, in addition to being the source of inspiration for many to study Mathematics, especially at A Level. Gary's commitment to his team in the Maths Department and to the welfare of the students has been exemplary, and it has never waned. Taking the A Level Mathematics results as an example over the past 18 years, Gary has been responsible for around 500 A Level Maths students.

Out of all the students, 92% of them achieved A\*, A, or B grades, which is truly outstanding. This statistic is even more impressive when combined with the value-added achieved; Gary has consistently led a department which is consistently within the top 10% nationally for value-added. This is a great achievement, and one of which he is very proud.

'Furthermore, I've also had dozens and dozens of messages from Old Ratcliffians on Facebook and by email, who have taken the time to say how influential Gary has been in their lives. Their messages are sincere, hilarious, emotional, and grateful. He's left a lasting impression on literally thousands of students. We all wish him the very best for a long and well-deserved retirement. He will be missed by everyone!'

Below are just some of the memories and comments received from Old Ratcliffians about Gary:



**Alison Court (née Mason) (98):** 'All the best, Mr Higham! What a brilliant teacher. You must have had to deal with so many difficult kids over the years - of course, I was one of the better ones! They say you never forget the good teachers, and you will always be remembered! Thanks, and enjoy your next chapter!'

**Hannah Collins (05):** 'Enjoy your retirement! I remember, one day, I was feeling low, and you sat me down outside the classroom and gave me a really helpful pep talk. You were a fantastic teacher and really supportive. Thank you, and all the best!'

**Kate Hudson (01):** 'You got me through the horrors of A Level Maths in 2000, and I'm still riding off the A that surprised us both! Enjoy your retirement - you've earned it after all these years. I swear, you've not changed a bit since I was 18, and I'm 40 this year!'

it after all these years. I swear, you've not changed a bit since I was 18, and I'm 40 this year!'

**Richard O'Neill (88):** 'I dreaded Maths lessons until Mr Higham came along and explained everything in a way that made sense. There's no doubt that I would've failed my O Level without him. I remember our post-exam lesson, when he encouraged us to do impersonations of the teachers, himself included, with hilarious results. One of Ratcliffe's finest. Have a happy and long retirement.'

**Dan Bunnag (91):** 'He was patient but firm, even when **Paul Whitmore (91)** continued to ask him how old he was. I could also mention the "spray-on" super-tight purple Loughborough University tracksuit bottoms that he always wore, but he told us they were fashionable at the time. Good luck with the next chapter.'

**Mike Ham (10):** 'Brilliant teacher with great ethics. I once laughed at a fellow student asking a question, and he shouted at me, then told the class that there's nothing wrong with asking questions. Top bloke. I learnt my lesson and have huge respect for him.'

**Ben Foulds (07):** 'One of the very best. He worked us all hard, but made sure we had fun, and he was a master at maximising

potential. He displayed remarkable patience in the face of my haplessness with Cam Maths (is that still a thing?) back in '02. Go well, Mr Higham!'

**Emily Waez-Burton (03):** 'One of my favourite teachers. He supported me so much with my Maths GCSE. Enjoy your retirement, and all the best for the future.'

**Mark Tweedley (00):** 'Fantastic teacher that looked after his pupils, didn't take any nonsense from anyone, and got results. What an amazing guy. All the best to you!'

**Louise Bird (06):** 'Happy retirement, Mr Higham! Your perseverance in getting me through Further Maths deserves a medal! Brilliant teacher - one of the ones you will always remember.'

**Obe Tao (12):** 'I never enjoyed Mathematics classes until I met Mr Higham in Year 9. Thank you for your inspiration and interesting classes. Have a wonderful retirement!'

**James Waymont (12):** 'Gazza was not just the best Maths teacher - he was simply the best teacher at Ratcliffe. He genuinely cared for his students' progress, and he always had the best advice for life beyond school. An absolute force of nature and a brilliant all-round educator, Mr H will be tricky to replace. Enjoy your retirement!'



## DAVID SANDEMAN'S (77) TRANS-ATLANTIC CROSSING



In 1972, 12 years old and mad keen on sailing, I went to a talk given by Chay Blyth, who, the year before, had sailed around the world. At the end of the talk, I queued to get his autograph, and at that point, I decided spontaneously that I would sail the Atlantic in 1976, singlehanded, to set a record! I told Chay of my plan, and he said, 'Do it, laddie. Do it!'

I kept the idea quiet, as nobody would have believed me back then, but I started sailing our family's 35-foot yacht, *Sea Raider*, singlehanded from about the age of 14. In 1975, while in the Fifth Year (Year 11 in new money), I told my parents about my plan to sail the Atlantic. Surprisingly, they were very supportive, and they arranged to meet with **Fr Baxter (38)**, Father President at the time. Fr Baxter thought it was to talk about my A Level choices, but we dropped the bombshell that I wanted to take the summer of '76, my Lower Sixth year (Year 12 nowadays) off to attempt the crossing. I expected to be told no and to get on with some work, but Fr Baxter immediately agreed, despite recognising the risks to the school's reputation if I drowned.

Whilst I wanted to enter the Observer Singlehanded Trans-Atlantic Race (OSTAR), I was not allowed to, on account of not being 21. So, June 5th 1976 saw 126 yachts leave Plymouth, and I left Jersey at the same time. After five days, problems started to arise. My main radio broke, so the only way of reporting my position was to use an emergency radio calling trans-Atlantic jets.

Six days out, a series of storms started that lasted for over 10 days. The fleet was battered by westerly winds, gusting over 50 knots, and this caused 20% of the yachts to retire. Fortunately, I was not one of them, but it was terrifying, especially at night, getting

thrown around. I did wonder whether *Sea Raider* would be able to take it, but she did. Thankfully, calm winds finally came. Early on June 26th, I woke to the sound of a foghorn of a Russian ship about to collide with me. The ship stopped, and I went alongside. I spent the day working with the crew to repair the broken rigging and left that evening, US-bound.

I was over halfway across the Atlantic, and the storms of the recent weeks were behind me. Instead, I had calms and fog; it was very eerie sailing across the Grand Banks in fog, listening to the foghorns of fishing vessels. One day, a small coaster came out of the fog with no one on the bridge. As it passed me, less than 20 feet away, I threw a thunderflash onto its deck, and within two seconds, the entire crew came out! I just gave them a friendly wave!

As I inched my way in the fog towards Newport, Rhode Island, by luck, I was able to contact a TWA jet and get a message through to the school, on Prize Day. I understand that the bursar took the call and went straight to Fr Baxter, interrupted his speech, and was able to share the good news as to my whereabouts.

On July 18th at 8.30pm, I finally made it to Newport, and as I moored up, a brass band from a local bar came out and played the national anthem. The arrival was a very special event for me; it would not have been possible without the unfaltering support of my family, the school, and all my friends, who made it happen. The race I had just completed is considered to be the toughest of all OSTAR races ever run. Out of the 127 yachts that set out, over 40 retired, five had collisions with a ship, I was the only one not to sink, and sadly, two lives were lost. A tough race indeed. RIP Mike McMullen and Mike Flanagan.

A few weeks later, I was back at Ratcliffe for the Autumn Term, and on the first Saturday, Fr Mike Walters took some of the Upper Sixth students down to The Star in Thrussington to have a pint. Two days before that, I had been interviewed by the *Leicester Mercury* and was on their front page with a picture. As I was buying my pint from the landlord, I saw a copy of the newspaper on the bar. As he pulled a pint, he said to me, 'Is that you?', and I answered, 'Yes.' He then said, 'It says here you're 17', and I said, 'Don't worry about that - it's a misprint. I'm 18.' There was a big smile on the landlord's face.

My time at Ratcliffe and my Atlantic crossing gave me a great start in life, and I am forever grateful for both of those opportunities.

### David Sandeman (77)

David is pictured, below, meeting the Queen in 1977. You can read more about this on page 56.





## NEWS FROM THE ROSMINI CENTRE

When Blessed Antonio Rosmini was a student at the University of Padua, near Venice, he actively pursued many projects, one of which was the creation of a 'Society of Friends', dedicated to helping each other, and the whole world, in the search for truth and love.

The constant search for truth in an environment of friendship later became the essence of the Rosminian ethos in all of our schools and colleges. Ratcliffe College has been outstanding in pursuing both objectives, searching, learning, appreciating truth in all subjects and disciplines, and fostering a true spirit of friendship among staff, teachers, and students. This is not only seen during their time at the College, but for life, as our Ratcliffian Association demonstrates.

The Rosmini Centre is an important part of this. The success of Stonhurst or of Ampleforth over the years would be unconceivable without reference to the Jesuits or Benedictines who provided both colleges with their own special charism or ethos. The Rosminian presence at Ratcliffe has been equally long and fruitful, from its beginning in 1847 until now. It was Fr Luigi Gentili who bought the land in 1842, with the active participation of Blessed Antonio Rosmini, and who commissioned the planning and building of the College to A W Pugin. The result was a splendid building - a glorious emblem of the revival of Gothic architecture in 19th-century Britain.

For over 175 years, the Rosminian fathers and brothers were an essential part of the life of the College. However, soon after the beginning of the present century, in 2004, the old Ratcliffe farm, attached to the College, became the permanent centre of Rosminian spirituality and the residence of the fathers. They were charged with the task of guaranteeing the fostering of the Rosminian ethos in the College, as demanded by the objectives of the Ratcliffe Trust.

The Rosmini Centre, the home of Rosminian spirituality, is there for the College. It is also open to the whole Diocese of Nottingham and beyond, offering the opportunity to schools and parishes,

and to other diocesan organisations to come for quiet days of recollection, for discussions, for individual or group prayer, or for meetings. However, in the first place, the Rosmini Centre is there for trustees, governors, staff, students, and Old Ratcliffians, to use the buildings we have, and to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature immersed in the luscious array of more than 40,000 trees.

The Rosmini Centre is visited regularly by Old Ratcliffians, usually to meet those Rosminian priests who were their companions in earlier times. **Fr Anthony Meredith (57)** was the rector of the Rosmini Centre up until a year ago, and he is now supporting with his experience the younger generations of Rosminian students in our house at Porta Latina, Rome.

**Fr David Tobin (59)** is now based in Rugby, but he is a frequent visitor of the Centre and of the College. **Fr Simon Giles (60)** is helping in the parish of St Mary's in Loughborough, while **Br Nigel Cave (72)** and **Fr Philip Sainter (69)** are working from the Centre - the former as the archivist of the UK Province, and the latter as Father President of the College. **Fr Ted Mullen (60)** is now parish priest at Birstall, with residence at the Rosmini Centre; here, with his special apostolate, he supports many visitors who come to see him for spiritual direction and advice.

Further afield, Fr Tom Deidun has left St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, after many years of precious service. His place has been taken by a young, experienced priest, Fr Tom Thomas. We wish them both all good things.

The desire of the Rosminian community at the Rosmini Centre is to continue to provide guidance for Ratcliffe College and the Old Ratcliffians in all matters related to the charism of Blessed Antonio Rosmini. This helps to establish strong links that will hopefully prove beneficial for the strengthening of the Rosminian ethos, which has had such a powerful influence on so many of our students over the years. Come and visit us; you are always welcome.

**Fr Antonio Belsito**

# DIARY DATES 2023

The Ratcliffian Association is busy planning a diary of events that will appeal to ORs across the generations. Those for which we already have details are printed below. (Please note that these dates are subject to change; we will endeavour to notify you of any changes as early as possible.) To stay fully up to date with all events in 2023, please visit our website, [www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk](http://www.ratcliffianassociation.co.uk), regularly, where you can also book or register your interest in these events.

FEBRUARY 3RD	THE LONDON DINNER THE CRYPT, ST ETHELDREDA'S MASS 6.50PM, DRINKS RECEPTION 7.15PM, DINNER 8PM
MARCH 9TH	SIXTH FORM NETWORKING EVENT RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
MARCH 12TH	RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING RATCLIFFE COLLEGE, 11.30AM
APRIL 28TH	THE CENTENARY SALVER LUFFENHAM HEATH GOLF CLUB
MAY 12TH	2023 LEAVERS' MASS THE CHAPEL, RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
MAY 21ST	THE REYNARD GOLF TROPHY ROTHLEY PARK GOLF CLUB, 3PM
JUNE 8TH	THE RATCLIFFIAN GOLF SHIELD ROTHLEY PARK GOLF CLUB, 3.30PM
JULY TBC	THE RATCLIFFE REUNION RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
JULY TBC	THE GRAND MATCH RATCLIFFE COLLEGE
JULY TBC	RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION AGM RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION BAR, 5.30PM
JULY 21ST - 28TH	THE HCPT LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
SEPTEMBER 30TH	THE 5 YEAR REUNION (CLASS OF 2018) RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION BAR, 7PM
OCTOBER 27TH	THE PAST PRESIDENTS' DINNER THE OLD LIBRARY, RATCLIFFE COLLEGE, 7PM
NOVEMBER 19TH	RATCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING RATCLIFFE COLLEGE, 11.30AM
DECEMBER 24TH	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS THE CHAPEL, RATCLIFFE COLLEGE, 5PM

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