

# FATHER OF THE BRIDE

GOSFIELD HALL

13 JAN 2024

**HON. PROF. RICHARD A. BARTLE**

BSC PHD FRSA FBCS SFHEA

## MADELEINE

- YES, THIS IS A **POWERPOINT** PRESENTATION
  - I'M A **PROFESSOR**, WHAT DID YOU **EXPECT**?
- I ONLY HAVE SOMETHING LIKE **10** MINUTES, SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE **QUICK**
- SO, **MOST** OF YOU KNOW THE BRIDE AS **MADDIE**
- ONLY **FOUR** PEOPLE IN THE **ENTIRE** WORLD CALL HER **MADELEINE**
- UNLUCKILY FOR **YOU**, I'M **ONE** OF THEM
  - **SUCK** IT UP, **MADDIE** PEOPLE

## BEGINNINGS

- MADELEINE WAS BORN ON THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 1994 AT 2 MINUTES TO 10 IN THE MORNING

711932



Mother's Surname Bartle

Baby's Name(s) Madeleine

Delivery Date, Time 21.3.94 09.58

Head Circumference 35 cm

Length 50.5 cm

Weight 3.106 kg 6lb 13 1/2 oz + 37.02.

The National Childbirth Trust



For the telephone number of your local NCT contact, see the poster in this ward or ask your midwife



## PROSPECTS

- HERE'S HER **HOROSCOPE** FROM THE *DAILY MIRROR*

– AS *THE MIRROR* WAS THEN KNOWN

● IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: A super year when you will excel in everything you do. Don't be distracted away from what you know is right for you.

● TODAY IS THEIR BIRTHDAY: Timothy Dalton, 48; Michael Heseltine MP, 61; Brian Clough, 59; Roger Whittaker, 59; Gary Oldham, 36.



**ARIES** (Mar 21 – Apr 20): Family matters need your attention now for whatever task you turn your energy to will be carried out more quickly than a flick of a lamb's tail. If you're making plans for visitors who arrive soon, about changes in your household or want to arrange to get away for Easter, then do it today.

★ **STARLINE: 0891 332 801**

# PRESCIENT

- SOME OF THE **CARTOONS** WERE WEDDING-RELATED



- NOT ENTIRELY **USEFULLY**...

I KNOW ALL THIS...

- I **KNOW** ALL THIS BECAUSE ON 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 1994, I WENT OUT AND BOUGHT A COPY OF **EVERY NEWSPAPER I COULD FIND**



- "OOH, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!"

## COLLECTION

- WE COLLECTED ALL **SORTS** OF THINGS FROM MADELEINE'S FIRST FEW YEARS





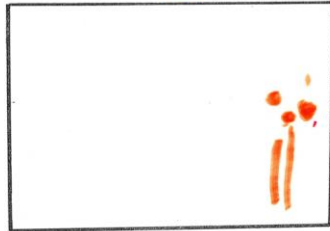
# NURSERY SCHOOL

- NURSERY SCHOOL WAS A **GREAT** SOURCE!

Madeline

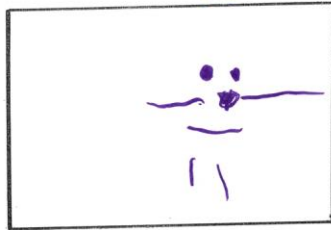
Excellent work Madeline, well done.

This is my Mummy

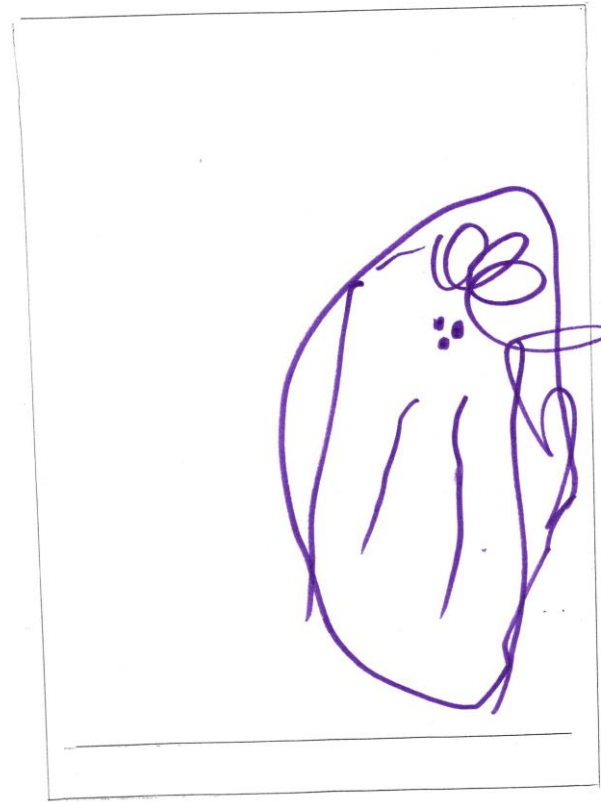


Madeline

This is my Daddy



Can you draw yourself. Madeline



## IMPROVEMENT

- HER ARTISTIC ABILITY DID **IMPROVE**



- I HAVE THIS **FRAMED** ON MY OFFICE WALL

## BAGS AND BOXES

- WE PUT ALL THE THINGS WE COLLECTED INTO **BAGS** AND PUT THE BAGS IN A **BOX**



FIVE

- THEN, WHEN MADELEINE WAS **5**, WE **SEALED UP** THE BOX AND HID IT IN THE **ATTIC**



OLDER

- MADELEINE GOT **OLDER**...



- WHY **YES**, I **DID** TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH OF HER ON EVERY BIRTHDAY UNTIL SHE WAS **20**

## ALSO IN THE BOX

- I PUT ONE **LAST** THING IN THE BOX BEFORE I **SEALED** IT UP
- IT WAS A **LETTER**, WRITTEN TO **FUTURE** MADELEINE FOR WHEN SHE GOT TO OPEN THE BOX AGED **18**
- IN IT, I COULD **SAY** THINGS TO HER AGED 5 THAT I KNEW I **WOULDN'T** BE ABLE TO SAY TO HER AGED 18
  - BUT THAT I KNEW I'D **WANT** TO SAY TO HER
- HERE'S AN EDITED **TRANSCRIPT...**

20<sup>th</sup> March, 1999

Dear Madeleine,

I'm writing this on the eve of your fifth birthday. Tomorrow, I shall put it in the box that we've been keeping since you were born, and seal it up. The next person to look inside will be you. I'm sorry this message is typed, but as you have to be able to read it, it did seem the sensible thing to do...

## LETTER 2/6

The reason I'm writing is to give the you of the future some idea of what the you of the past was like. I don't know whether I'll even be alive when you reach adulthood, let alone whether we'll still be on speaking terms (teenage years being what they are and all that), but I do know that I can say what I think about you now, and that *you'll* know it won't be tempered by anything which happens between now and when you read it.



## LETTER 3/6

Madeleine, you are absolutely adorable. I always tell you that I have to get all my hugs from you now, because you won't want to give me any when you're older, but you're so affectionate and giving that I think, just maybe, I could be wrong: I certainly won't complain if I am! You're unusually thoughtful with regard to other people, and I sometimes worry that you may be taken advantage of when you're older. However, you're also exceptionally intelligent, so that rather precludes being gullible...

## LETTER 4/6

It's this intelligence which impresses me most about you. Yes, of course everyone will immediately notice your (what I can't imagine won't turn out to be) staggeringly good looks, but it's what's inside the head that counts more. You are very observant, very good at anticipating events and working things out, and you occasionally have jaw-dropping insights that young children just shouldn't have..! You are one smart girl, Madeleine. You love your sister (who, on the whole, deserves it) and completely adore your mother.

## LETTER 5/6

As for me, well it's hard to be a father. I want you to know, though, that I love you deeply. I probably won't get a chance to tell you this ever again, so please believe me.

## LETTER 6/6

OK, well I'd better stop now. You'll want to rummage through the box and see what memories, if any, it holds. Have fun! I don't know what the future holds for you, Madeleine, but I do know that if the promise of your first five years is carried through, you're going to be a most exceptional person. Don't worry about trying to make us proud of you – we already are. Just be you.

Love,

Daddy .

## GIVING WAY

- I USED TO THINK THAT THE IDEA THAT THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE "**GIVES AWAY**" HIS DAUGHTER WAS RATHER **PROPRIETORIAL**
  - IT IMPLIED THE FATHER **OWNED** HIS DAUGHTER
- IT WASN'T UNTIL I **HAD** DAUGHTERS THAT I **UNDERSTOOD** WHAT IT MEANT
- THE FATHER OF THE BRIDE ISN'T GIVING AWAY HIS **DAUGHTER**, HE'S GIVING AWAY HIS **LOVE**
  - OF COURSE I WON'T – **CAN'T** – LOVE MADELEINE ANY LESS, BUT HER LIFE HAS NOW **MOVED ON**

## GIVING AWAY

- MADELEINE IS NOW **JOSH'S** TO LOVE
  - JOSH'S TO **CARE** FOR
  - JOSH'S TO **ADORE**
  - JOSH'S TO KEEP **SAFE** FROM **HARM**
- IT'S THE **LOT** OF **MEN** THAT WHEN THEIR DAUGHTERS **MARRY** THEY MUST TAKE **SECOND** PLACE
- BUT **BEFORE** THEN ...
- ... THEY GET TO TAKE **FIRST** PLACE WITH SOMEONE **ELSE'S** DAUGHTER, WHICH RATHER MAKES UP FOR IT!
- SO ... OVER TO **YOU**, JOSH!

## OVERRAN

- I **OVERRAN**, DIDN'T I?



- I BELIEVE THAT NOW THERE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE **TOASTS**

TOAST!

- TO THE **HAPPY COUPLE!**

